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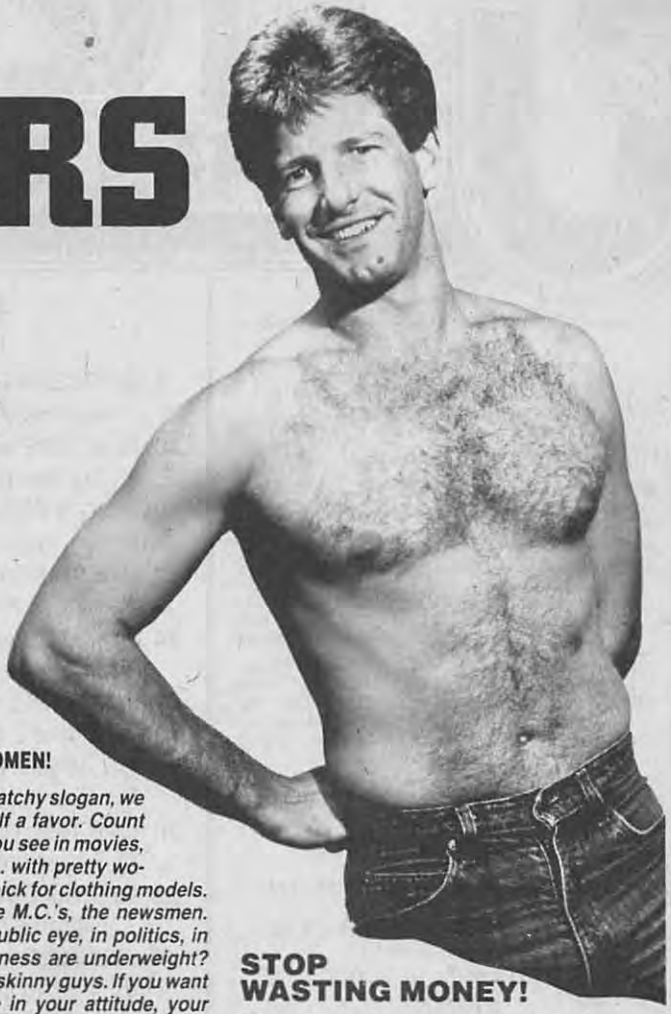

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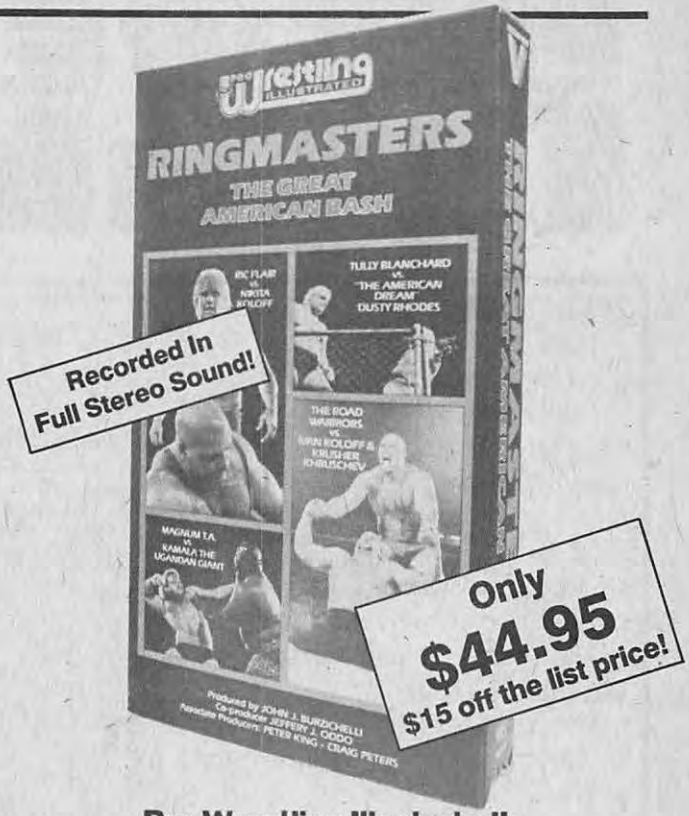
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YEAR IN REVIEW IN REVIEW

What can I say? The March 1986 issue, without a doubt, has to be not only the best *PWI* ever, but the best wrestling magazine of all time. 1985 was professional wrestling's greatest year, bar none. The sport received national media recognition that was long overdue, but the best coverage was still found, month in and out, in *Pro Wrestling Illustrated.*

The Year In Review, compiled by Craig Peters, was a nimble-witted, keen, and clever look at 1985. The Achievement '85 Awards, with its magnificent color section, focused on the year's biggest newsmakers and stars. I thoroughly enjoyed the Unofficial Official Awards, Predicitions '86 and the *PWI* ndex. And I was overjoyed that your magazine had the courage to give the Editors' Award to the late Dan Shocket. It was a fitting tribute to a man who may not have won many popularity contests, but was still extremely respected. He remains in the hearts and minds of many *PWI* readers.

Thank you for making 1985 the greatest year of wrestling with 12 excellent issues. I'm looking forward to more of the same in 1986.

BRAD HAINER
Vancouver, BC

Congratulations! Your March '86 issue was terrific. The magazine was informative, innovative, and entertaining. The color pinups were fantastic.

Craig Peters' Year In Review was the best part of the magazine. I don't know how long it took him to compile it, but the effort was certainly appreciated. I found it to be the most interesting piece I've read in years.

It will be a magazine I will treasure for a long, long time.

ROBERT RENETT
Potomac, MD

I would like to congratulate your staff for putting together the best *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* I have ever read. Certainly, I have to be talking about your March 1986 "Achievement '85" issue. Every article was excellent, but the "Achievement '85" section was superb! The eight color pages were the highlight of the issue. Those were the most colorful and most descriptive photos I have ever seen in *PWI.*

On a scale of 1 to 10, meaning 10 is the highest, this issue is a more-than-perfect 10.

MIKE GRANCHAY
Youngstown, OH

MORE-ACO

It's about time somebody stands up and speaks out for Magnificent Muraco. He is continuously ignored and underrated by the so-called "wrestling experts." I can't even remember the last time I saw a half-decent article printed about the man in any magazine.

He deserves recognition. Look how he has destroyed Rick "Puff The Dragon" Steamboat over the past few months. Muraco is the toughest opponent Hulk Hogan has ever had to face, taking the Hulkster to his limit. Muraco is the only contender Hogan never pinned.

Magnificent Muraco is the finest talent pro wrestling has to offer. The man from Sunset Beach, Hawaii, can do it all. He is, in all respects, truly an uncrowned champion.

PAIGE DUNCAN
Middletown, PA

ROCK 'N' ROLLS DENIED

I think the fans and the editors of the magazine have sorely overlooked the accomplishments of the Rock 'n' Roll Express in the Achievement '85 awards.

I have nothing against The Road Warriors, but I feel The Rock 'n' Roll Express was far more deserving of the Tag Team of the Year award, having defeated the Russians twice to become NWA tag

(Continued on page 48)

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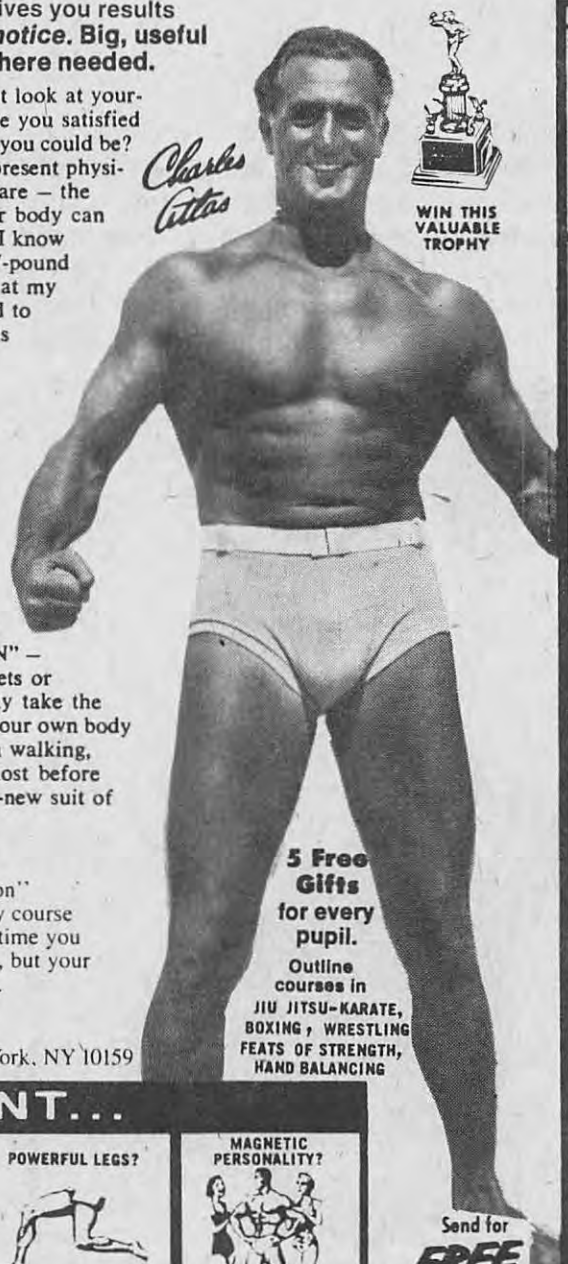

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THERE'S THAT BIG STIFF AGAIN, SHOWING OFF IN FRONT OF GRACE AND THE CROWD. WELL IT'S MY TURN THIS TIME!
WHAM!—NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO DRY UP AND BLOW AWAY!
OH, MAC! YOU ARE A REAL MAN AFTER ALL!

RINGSIDE

With Bill Apter

WHILE AWA FANS continue to reel from the shock of **Rick Martel's** AWA World title loss on December 29, new champion **Stan Hansen** is gearing up for what could possibly be the legal battle of a lifetime.

Stan Hansen reluctantly poses in the Meadowlands dressing room with the AWA World title belt after his victory over Rick Martel. "The Lariat" now holds three titles simultaneously and claims he will continue to do so.

Hansen, who won the World belt from Martel via submission in New Jersey's Byrne Meadowlands Arena, is also the holder of Pacific Wrestling Federation heavyweight title, and co-holder of the PWF tag team title (with **Ted DiBiase**—who also co-holds the Mid-South tag team title with **Steve Williams**!).

"Seems there's a bunch of fancy-pants lawyers in three-pieces who wanna fix it so that I can't hold all these belts at one time," Hansen told **Pro Wrestling Illustrated.** "Let me tell you something, brother, I don't give a hoot in hell **what** any quiche-eating preppy wimp has to say—I'm holding on to these belts. Period. They wanna take 'em from me, they can just come on up in the ring and try, like the way **anyone** who wants one of my belts is supposed to. None o' this legal mumbo-jumbo's gonna take a belt from me, that's for **dang** sure!"

PWI asked Hansen about his PWF title commitments in Japan, and whether traveling to the other side of the globe once or twice a month will take its toll on him.

"See, people forget," Hansen said. "I been holding on to those two PWF belts for over half a year now. And what did six months of travel like that do to me? Hell, it made me mean enough to spit nails and take Martel's belt from him. Who knows? Maybe six months from now I'll have **Ric Flair's** belt, too!"

An interesting footnote: During Hansen's most recent trip to Japan prior to winning the AWA World title, the team of Hansen and DiBiase won the 1985 All Japan "World's Strongest Tag Team" title, scoring significant victories over such teams as **Dynamite Kid** and **Davey Boy Smith** (who finished second in the tournament) and **Riki Chosu** and **Yoshiaki Yatsu.**

A one-night tournament in Charlotte, North Carolina, saw **Arn Anderson** emerge as the new NWA World television champion. Anderson defeated **Wahoo McDaniel** in the final round to capture the belt. "Yeah, Anderson has the belt," McDaniel said bitterly, "but he got it by pulling a foreign object out of his boot and cracking me in the head with it. Some champion. But what can you expect from an Anderson?" McDaniel tells us that he's not about to let the incident go unpunished.

I must say, **Hulk Hogan's** first Madison Square Garden championship match in nearly half a year was a doozy! The Hulkster defended his

(Continued on page 53)

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KING'S COURT

By Peter King

Hulk Hogan is driven to his knees during a rugged match with Randy "Macho Man" Savage at Madison Square Garden. With each match, Savage is gaining on the WWF champion, observes Peter King.

FOR TWO FULL months before he lost the AWA title to Stan Hansen, the aura of defeat surrounded Rick Martel. Slowly, surely, the championship edge was drained from his body. The killing schedule of title defense after title defense was taking its toll on Martel. The injuries, the spilled blood, the miles of travel all conspired to remove the golden belt from around Martel's waist.

Stan Hansen, of course, also helped remove the belt from around Martel's waist. To say that Martel *lost* the title is not to give Hansen the credit he is due. Stan Hansen *won* the AWA title, and Rick Martel would be the first to admit it.

But this column is not about Rick Martel or Stan Hansen. It is about seeing a champion diminish in front of our eyes. I've seen it happen time and time again. Bruno Sammartino, a true legend, became a mortal—and very beatable—during the last few months of his first title reign. At that time, way back in 1971, Ivan Koloff was there at the right time and he ended Bruno's incredible reign. Pedro Morales, Dory Funk Jr., Jack Brisco, Bruno again, Nick Bockwinkel, Bob Backlund—the list is as long as the men who have held world titles—all wore down from the beatings and the pressure. I've watched it happen often.

And I'm seeing it happen again ... with Hulk Hogan.

In my opinion, Hogan is nearing the end of his WWF title reign. The evidence is clear. His recent series of battles against Randy Savage have weakened Hogan. In their bout in Madison Square Garden, Hogan suffered more than a countout defeat to Savage; he was humiliated.

Whether you believe, as I do, that Hogan is a protected champion is unimportant. Perhaps the WWF wishes it never gave a license to Randy Savage, but that is too late now. Savage is Hogan's number one challenger, and, quite frankly, he is bringing in tons of dollars to the WWF coffers. If there's one thing WWF head Vince McMahon cherishes more than the merchandising receipts from his Hulkamania trademark, it is the gate receipts from his arenas. And the fans are *not* flocking to see Hulk Hogan, they are flocking to see Hogan vs. Savage.

While it is true that Savage has had numerous chances to take the belt and has yet to do so, I believe it is only a matter of time before he does. Ric Flair, a superb student of wrestling warfare, once revealed his philosophy of winning a world title. "You almost *never* win it on the first shot," Flair said years ago when he was a top contender to then-NWA champion Dusty Rhodes. "A champ can always get himself disqualified. If the contender is too strong, the champion will simply walk back to the dressing room. It takes time. One match after another. You've gotta beat the pride out of the champion. Make him sick to get in the ring with you. One beating after another. So what if he disqualifies him-

(Continued on page 52)

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DRESSING ROOM

By Stu Saks

THERE IS ONLY one heavyweight champion of the world.

Well, at least that's true in the imaginations of the fans who sent in their predictions to the outcome of the "Night Of Dream Wrestling Supercard" that was persented in the *PWI Super Color Special #4.*

Some of our regular readers might be unfamiliar with our *Super Color Special* series. Without wasting too much space on blatant plugging, the *Super Color Specials* are collector's items that no fan should be without. They are essentially comprised of three full-color centerfolds: an eight-pager, a four-pager, and a two-pager. The eight-page foldout, which measures 22" x 32", of course, is the focal point of the issue. The first three issues featured The Road Warriors, Sgt. Slaughter, and Kerry Von Erich. With the fourth issue, we tried something entirely different. The pinup took the form of a fight poster featuring the editors' opinions of the dream wrestling card. We asked the fans to write back with "correspondents reports" on what they feel the outcome of the matches would be if such a card were to actually take place. (Please note that there have been several key title changes since the *Super Color Special* was printed).

Many of you might find some of the results surprising. More suprising, I feel, is the majority of fans voting for one wrestler or team over another in matches that, on paper, appear to be very close.

Sgt. Slaughter's feud with The Iron Sheik was revived on the "Night Of Dreams Supercard." Eighty-seven percent of the responding fans selected The Sarge as the winner.

For the remainder of this and next month's column, I am going to highlight one match description from each of the 10 matches. The precentage of fans who selected the winner is in parentheses. First, however, one more small plug: If you haven't seen the *PWI Super Color Specials,* check out the back page of this magazine.

Scientific Extravaganza: Magnum T.A. (91%) vs. Mil Mascaras (submitted by Jimmie Sturdivant): This would be a great scientific bout. Special referee Lou Thesz would have little to do until each got a little mad at each other. Magnum would finally put the belly-to-belly on Mascaras and win easily. Magnum would then help Mascaras up and the two would leave as Thesz raised both of their hands.

Battle Of The Behemoths: Dusty Rhodes & Andre the Giant (95%) vs. Abdullah the Butcher & Kamala (submitted by Louis J. Gagliano): The medical personnel are ready at ringside. There are three ambulances outside and ready. From the start, all four men are doing battle. There is enough blood being spilled to supply a blood bank for a year. Abdullah and Rhodes continue to do battle outside the ring while Kamala is doing battle with Andre inside the ring. Dusty is hit in the head with a chair by manager Paul Jones. He is knocked to the floor and stomped by Jones.

Abdullah sees Kamala about to be pinned. He runs into the ring

(Continued on page 54)

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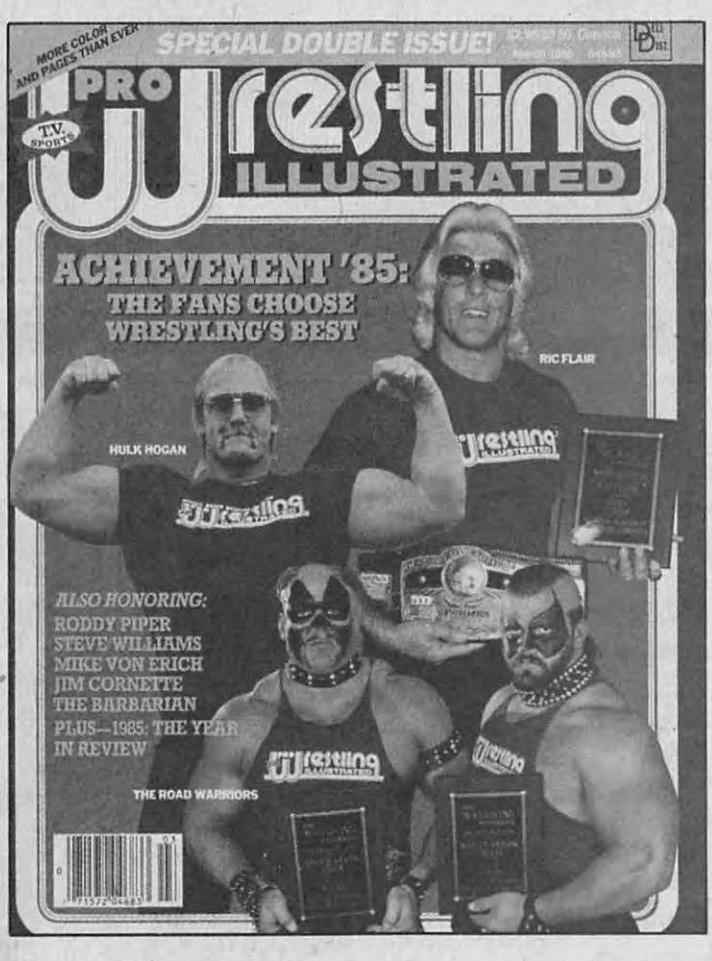

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IN FOCUS

With CRAIG PETERS

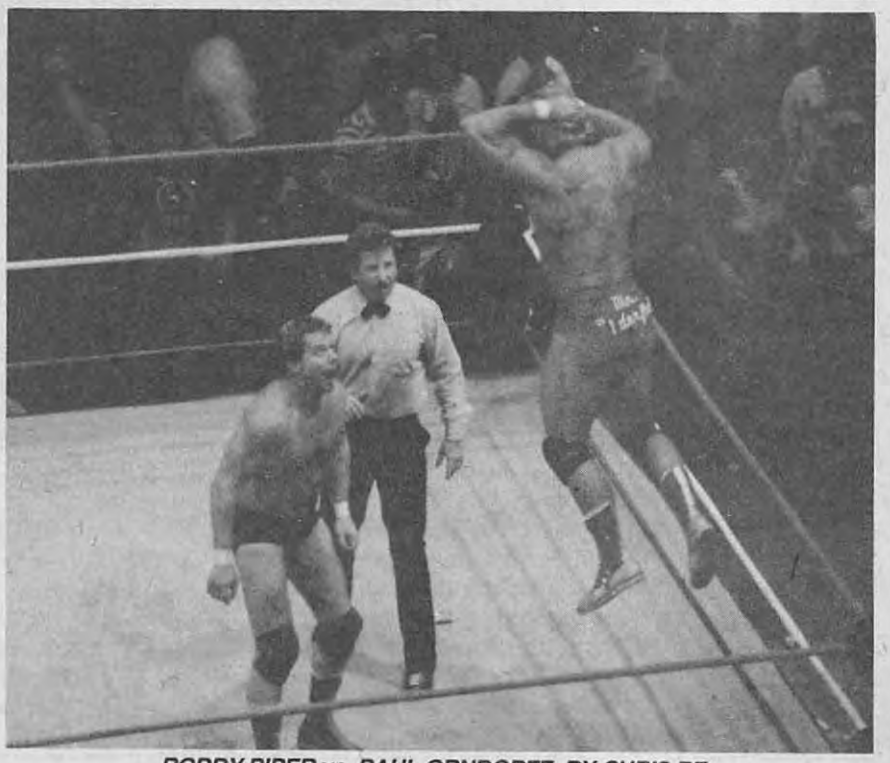
PWI T-SHIRT CONTEST

Chris Re of Gloucester, Massachusetts, is this month's photo contest winner with this fine action photograph of Roddy Piper vs. Paul Orndorff taken at the Boston Garden.

"You said in the January 1986 issue that you didn't get many pictures from the WWF," Chris wrote. "Well, here are five of my favorite pictures from the WWF in the Boston Garden."

About this particular photo, Chris noted that "before the bell rang, Orndorff and Piper started fighting and didn't let up the whole match. Both men were counted out and kept fighting all the way back to the dressing room."

For this photograph, Chris wins a free *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* T-shirt.



RODDY PIPER vs. PAUL ORNDORFF, BY CHRIS RE

Despite a lot of fine entries lately, I think it's time to bring the *PWI* photo contest to an end soon and move on to other things (maybe even a new monthly contest—if you have any ideas, let me know). So if you still want a chance to win a free T-shirt and have your photo seen in the world's largest-selling wrestling magazine, you've still got time—but you've got to enter *soon.* The July 1986 installment of "In Focus" will be the last photo contest.

All photos must be black and white. They become the property of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* and cannot be returned.

A short description of the match along with the name of the arena and the final result of the match would be appreciated with your photo. Send your photo to: In Focus c/o *Pro Wrestling Illustrated,* Box 48, Rockville Centre, New York, 11571. And don't forget to include your T-shirt size (small, medium, large, extra large).

YOUR ALL-PURPOSE WRESTLING PRESS RELEASE

I used to like seeing those features that *MAD* magazine used to print a lot, where they would have an all-purpose news story and you would fill in the blanks for the spaces provided by making choices from a given set of lists. Well, I've been trying to find a good way to kill some space this month, so I came up with my own all-purpose news story: a wrestling press release.

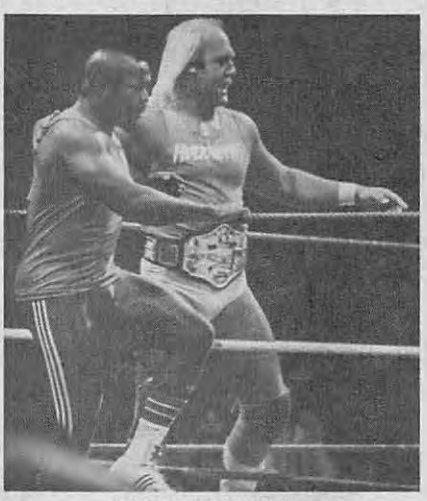
It's simple. All you do is choose one entry from column 1, one from column 2, etc., and plug them into the appropriate spaces provided. With eight blanks and six choices per item, that calculates out to no less than 1,679,616 (count 'em!) possible story combinations. Some of those might make you laugh (probably only about one or two), and other combinations make no sense at all (about a million or more of them), but I think you'll have fun with it anyway.

THE PRESS RELEASE:

___1___ proudly announced today that ___2___ will be permanently joining its ranks by the end of the month. The announcement comes after long months of ___3___ and ___4___, and has been hailed by wrestling observers worldwide as ___5___.

"I believe that this will add a new dimension to the organization," said ___6___ when questioned about the development. "Up until now, I think it's suffered from far too many ___7___ and not enough ___8___. This should help solve that problem admirably."

THE CHOICES:



MR. T & HOGAN

1

The AWA
The NWA
The WWF
The World Class area
Saturday Night Live
Pro Wrestling Illustrated

2

Buddy Rogers
a Dusty Rhodes clone
Lou Ferrigno
Chris Adams' uncle
Hulk Hogan and Mr. T
Pee Wee Herman

BUDDY ROGERS

3

hard negotiations
genetic engineering
fan protest
secretive discussions
anticipation
uncertainty

4

financial maneuverings
experimentation
petitioning
family bickering
anxiety
a financial bidding war

5

"more of the same crap"
"a horror beyond words"
"typical . . . for them"
"nothing to write home about"
"an obvious last resort"
"a completely stupid idea"

6

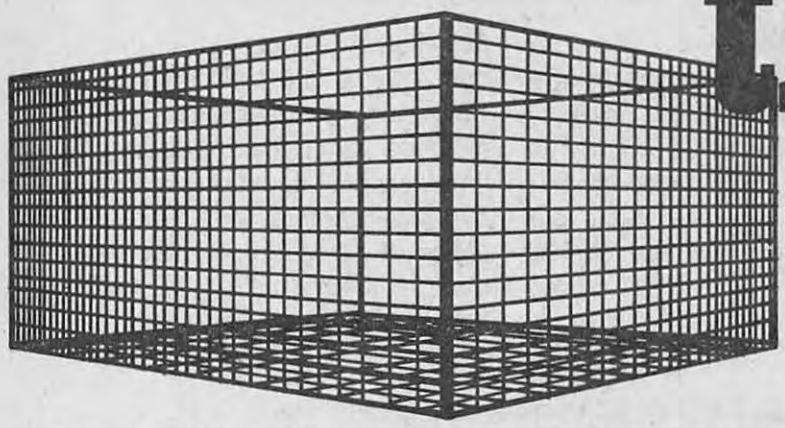
AWA President Stanley Blackburn
NWA promoter Jim Crockett
WWF head Vince McMahon
World Class official Ken Mantell
media critic James Brady
Editor-in-Chief Peter King

7

veterans
musclemen
legitimate wrestlers
brothers and cousins
boring shows
seriousness

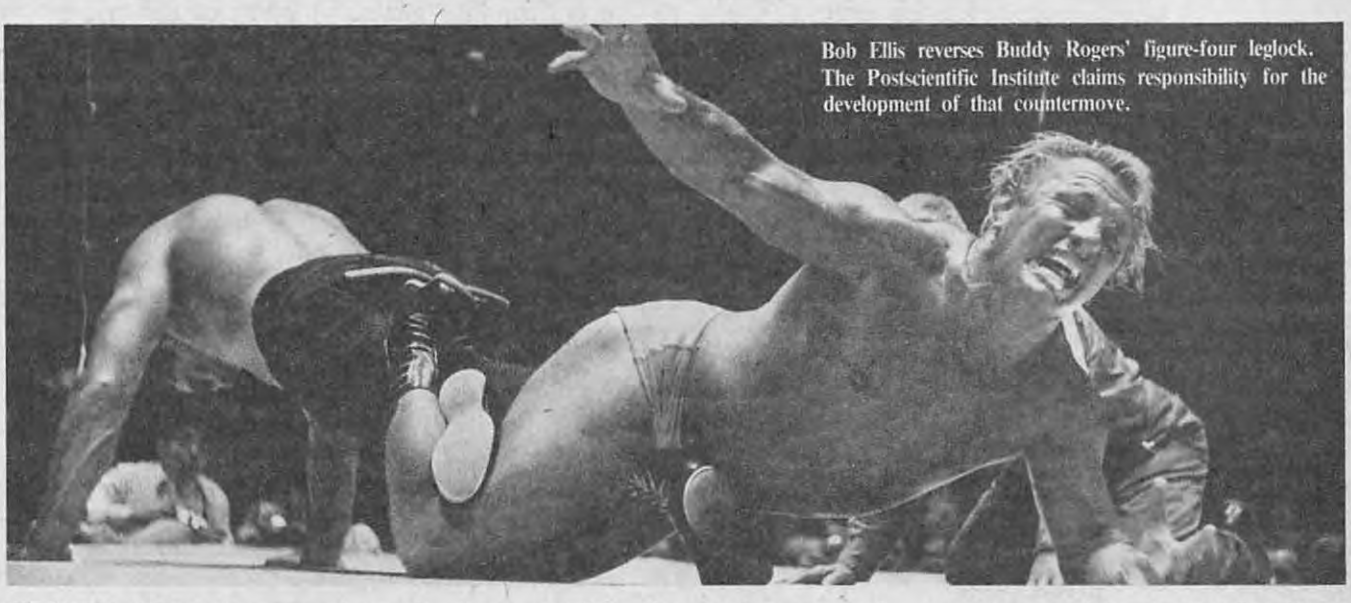
8

new blood in the area
real athletes
marketable names
uncles
laughs
silliness



the steel cage

By Jim Schuermann



Bob Ellis reverses Buddy Rogers' figure-four leglock. The Postscientific Institute claims responsibility for the development of that countermove.

THEY OWN 37 acres of woodlands, buried miles from the interstate. Their headquarters are a stunning, elaborately detailed neo-Gothic mansion.

I was to be the first wrestling journalist allowed inside the Postscientific Institute.

Few wrestling fans are aware of the Postscientific Institutute's existence. Those who have heard about it are unaware of the full extent of this covert organization's influence. The PSI (the acronym by which insiders commonly refer to the group) is a "think tank" of sorts, a private collective dedicated to improvement and innovation in professional wrestling. The finest intellectuals and strategists in wrestling do work for PSI, whether it's "in-house" (projects conducted at headquarters) or "freelance" (intelligence gathered in the ring or gym). Over its 37 years of existence, PSI has been instrumental in the development and perfection of literally thousands of holds and counter-holds. Most of these have not been adapted by the garden-variety wrestler, but others have not: The world's first reversal of a figure-four leglock, for example, occurred accidentally when two researchers were horsing around on the linoleum floor of the PSI commissary.

This is not to deny that Cowboy Bob Ellis, or anyone else, was the first to reverse a figure-four *in the ring*. We cannot, however, say whether or not he used PSI knowledge firsthand or he never worked with them at all. PSI operates under a vow of silence, and they are deadly serious about their security. They *do* go a little overboard with the espionage routine, but their paranoia is justifiable—as the current PSI Dean, Dr. John Duliba, will explain later in this column.

Dr. Duliba arranged a meeting at 11 a.m. sharp, and I arrived at five till the hour. A guard in a booth at the front gates turned off the closing credits of *Green Acres* and approached my car with the remote-control apparatus still in his hand. "Sorry, buddy, nobody gets in without a pass."

I whipped out a pack of cigarettes and offered him one. "No, thanks," he said. "A man needs steady nerves without 'em." He winked at me conspiratorially and pressed a button on the remote-control panel, releasing the gate lever. I needed that conversation to slide in. Neither of us smoked.

I was pleased to see Dr. Duliba greet me on the cavernous steps of the Institute, but I was a little taken aback. His regulation white smock clashed with the leopard-skin wrestling mask that covered his head. "Once you pass these doors," he explained, "you won't see a single staff member's face.

(Continued on page 55)

BACK ISSUES OF

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July 1980/COLOR STARSHOT: The Sheik. Cover story: Bruno Sammartino. PLUS: Wrestling II, Race, Ladd, Albano.

August 1980/COLOR STARSHOT: Koloff and Smirnoff. Cover story: Bruno vs. Zbyszko. PLUS: Idol, Von Erichs, Rhodes, Hogan.

June 1982/COLOR POSTER: Nick Bockwinkel. Cover story: Adonis & Ventura. PLUS: Snuka, Patera, Flair.

August 1982/COLOR POSTER: Dino Bravo. Cover story: Steamboat & Rich. PLUS: Andre, Martel, Piper, Blassie.

September 1982/COLOR POSTER: Blackjack Mulligan Jr. Cover story: Tommy Rich. PLUS: Piper, Snuka, Von Erich, Martel, AWA Sheiks.

October 1982/COLOR POSTER: Jerry Lawler. Cover story: Ric Flair. PLUS: Rhodes, Graham, Race, Funk Jr.

December 1982/COLOR POSTER: Rick Martel. Cover story: Hulk Hogan. PLUS: Von Erich, Orndorff, Albano.

January 1983/COLOR POSTER: Ken Patera. Cover story: Rick Steamboat. PLUS: Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

February 1983/COLOR POSTER: Ivan Putski. Cover story: Rhodes vs. Garvin. PLUS: Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

April 1983/COLOR POSTER: Superstar Graham. Cover story: Mil Mascaras. PLUS: Valentine, Orndorff, Hart.

June 1983/COLOR POSTER: Cowboy Bob Orton. Cover story: Rick Martel. PLUS: Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.

July 1983/COLOR POSTER: Ivan Koloff. Cover story: Tommy Rich. PLUS: Patera, Von Erich, Snuka, Geigel.

August 1983/COLOR POSTER: Larry Zbyszko. Cover story: Roddy Piper. PLUS: Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

October 1983/COLOR POSTER: Junkyard Dog. Cover story: Tommy Rich. PLUS: Johnson, Adonis, Rhodes, Piper.

November 1983/COLOR POSTER: Roddy Piper. Cover story: Harley Race. PLUS: Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

December 1983/COLOR POSTER: Wahoo McDaniel. Cover story: Dusty Rhodes. PLUS: Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

OCTOBER 1985

January 1984/COLOR POSTER: Harley Race. Cover story: Rick Martel. PLUS: Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

February 1984/COLOR POSTER: Jim Garvin & Sunshine. Cover story: Greg Valentine. PLUS: Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

April 1984/COLOR POSTER: Rocky Johnson. Cover story: Ric Flair. PLUS: Hogan, Andre, Rich, Bundy.

May 1984/COLOR POSTER: Hacksaw Butch Reed. Cover story: Hulk Hogan. PLUS: Road Warriors, Fabulous Ones, Flair, Rotundo.

June 1984/COLOR POSTER: Dick Slater. Cover story: Ted DiBiase. PLUS: Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, One Man Gang, Hogan.

July 1984/COLOR POSTER: Paul Ellering. Cover story: Jimmy Valiant. PLUS: JYD, Fabulous Ones, Gagne, Windham.

August 1984/COLOR POSTER: Stan Hansen. Cover story: Jerry Lawler. PLUS: Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell & Patera, Flair.

September 1984/COLOR POSTER: Hulk Hogan. Cover story: The Road Warriors. SPECIAL FIFTH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE—A Look Back At Wrestling In The *PWI* Years.

October 1984/COLOR POSTER: Billy Jack. Cover story: Kerry Von Erich. PLUS: Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

November 1984/COLOR POSTER: Rick Martel. Cover story: Sgt. Slaughter. PLUS: Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

December 1984/COLOR POSTER: Kerry Von Erich. Cover story: Barry Windham. PLUS: Rich, Martel, McDaniel, WWF-NWA TV war.

January 1985/COLOR POSTER: Tito Santana. Cover story: Road Warriors. PLUS: Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR POSTER: Magnum T.A. Cover story: Rick Martel. PLUS: Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

March 1985/SPECIAL YEAR-END AWARDS ISSUE! FOUR PAGE COLOR SECTION: Billy Jack, Roddy Piper, Ric Flair vs. Kerry Von Erich; PLUS: 1984—The Year In Review.

April 1985/COLOR POSTER: Ronnie Garvin. Cover story: Jimmy Snuka. PLUS: Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

May 1985/COLOR POSTER: Road Warriors. SPECIAL TAG TEAM ISSUE! Cover story: Fabulous Ones & Rock 'n' Roll Express. PLUS: Windham & Rotundo, Von Erich & Billy Haynes, *PWI* Rates Top 15 teams.

June 1985/COLOR POSTER: Barry Windham. Cover story: Dusty Rhodes. PLUS: Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, Magnum T.A.

July 1985/COLOR POSTER: Sgt. Slaughter. Cover story: Hogan vs. Piper. PLUS: Road Warriors, One Man Gang, Magnum T.A., Martel.

August 1985/COLOR POSTER: Rock 'n' Roll Express. Cover story: Von Erichs. PLUS: Slaughter, Hogan, NWA scouting reports.

September 1985/COLOR POSTER: Junkyard Dog. Cover story: Magnum T.A. PLUS: Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

October 1985/COLOR POSTER: Chris Adams. Cover story: Steamboat. PLUS: Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

November 1985/COLOR POSTER: Randy Savage. Cover story: Ric Flair. PLUS: Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

December 1985/COLOR POSTER: Jesse Ventura. Cover story: Great American Bash. PLUS: Von Erich, Orndorff, Williams & DiBiase.

January 1986/COLOR POSTER: Hacksaw Duggan. Cover story: Hulk Hogan. PLUS: Magnum T.A., Brody, Gagne.

February 1986/COLOR POSTER: Nikita Koloff. Cover story: Mike Von Erich, The Road Warriors. PLUS: Tito Santana, Terry Taylor, Barbarian, Harley Race.

March 1986/COLOR SECTION: Roddy Piper, Ric Flair, Hulk Hogan, Road Warriors, Mr. T. SPECIAL DOUBLE ISSUE: Achievement '85 Awards. PLUS: 1985-The Year in Review-Predictions '86.

- ☐ PWI/July 1980
- ☐ PWI/August 1980
- ☐ PWI/June 1982
- ☐ PWI/August 1982
- ☐ PWI/September 1982
- ☐ PWI/October 1982
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- ☐ PWI/January 1983
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- ☐ PWI/April 1983
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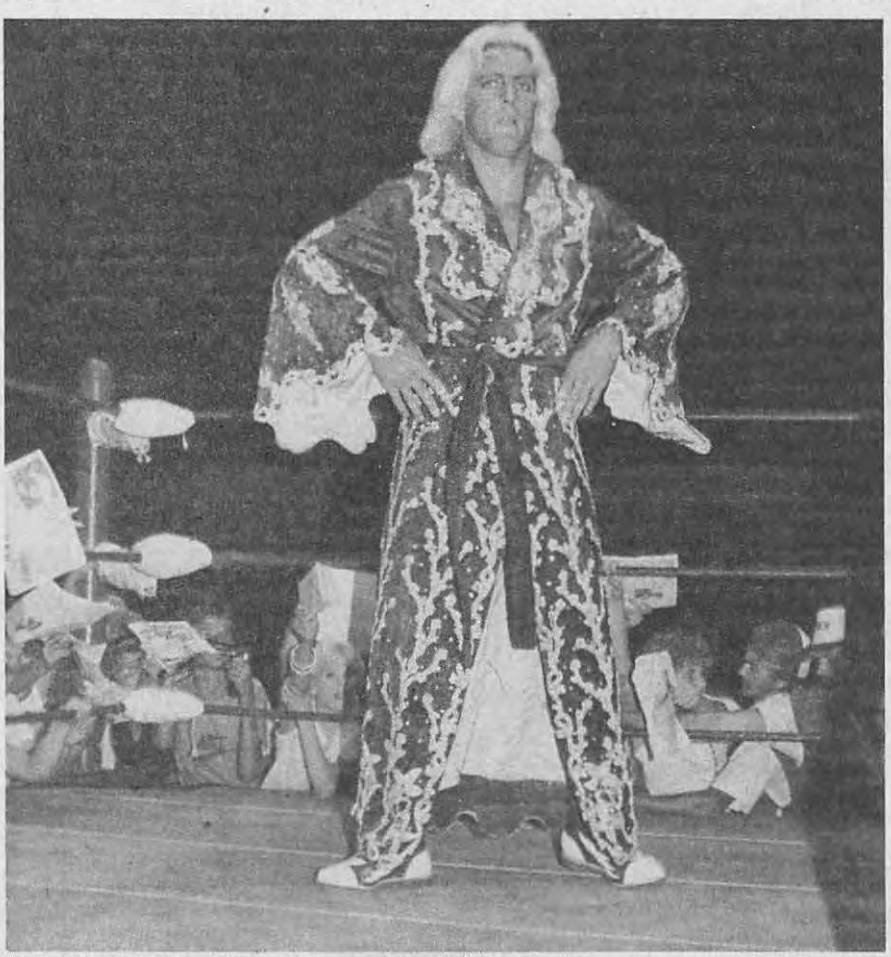
ON ASSIGNMENT

BY LIZ HUNTER

I'VE BEEN WINTERING in Atlanta for a few days, and I caught the taping of the *World Championship Wrestling* program on WTBS Cable. All the area wrestlers gather for that show, and I figured that if I couldn't pick up on the slightest hint of scoopola there, I was sunk.

As it turns out, I was sunk. I couldn't dig up anything new about Thunderfoot's identity, nobody would talk about the J.J. Dillon rumors I can't mention in print, and I couldn't even trace my old friend Nickla Roberts (Baby Doll) to ask her about reports of a purported split with Tully Blanchard. Gee, I guess I won't win any Pulitzers this month.

But the investigative expose I wished to write became something else entirely. The *WCW* folks had scheduled two major title matches, which functioned perfectly as straight news stories: Magnum T.A. would defend his U.S. championship against Ole Anderson, and Ric Flair had accepted Ronnie Garvin's challenge for the biggest prize in wrestling.



Although Ric Flair has been at the top of *PWI's* Most Hated ratings for the past three issues, apparently he still has a loyal following. Flair might ignore the fans (above), but some fans don't seem to care.

The *WCW* program's taping commences no more than a few winks past a winter's dawn. Stumbling bleary-eyed from my rented car, I was stunned to see dozens of people camped outside the TV studio's entrance. You would have thought Springsteen was about to perform under an assumed name and a local DJ had spilled the beans to insomniac listeners. The crowd was overwhelmingly female.

One woman recognized me, and called me over. "You look like hell, Liz," she clucked, and I agreed. "The question is, Cindy, what are *you* doing here? I can't believe you'd see the sun on a Sunday."

Cindy B., an abstract expressionist painter, looked at me as if I had swallowed a gerbil. "What are you, nuts? Nature Boy and Garvin today!"

"Yeah, yeah, sure," I muttered, and told her I'd meet her again after the taping. I wasn't yet in the mood for conversation with the enthusiastic. Even if Cindy, and two of her accompanying friends, were among my best sources on the World Championship beat.

It didn't take too many coffees and frustrating dialogues for me to realize that my leads wouldn't go anywhere. Professionally annoyed, I settled down in front of a monitor shortly before the T.A.-Anderson match. It was a spirited brawl, though neither combatant executed up to his potential. I half-heartedly noticed that the

(Continued on page 58)

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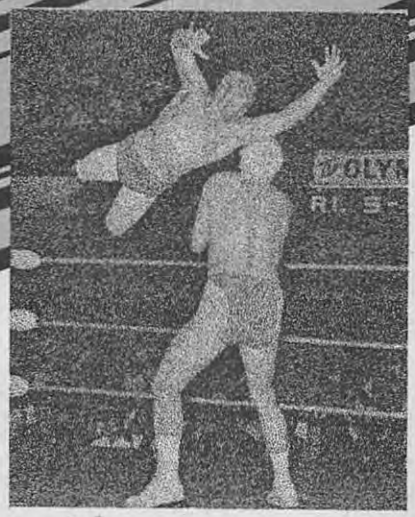
BY EDDIE ELLNER

off the Top Rope



If you wish to contribute to Ellner's mailbag, send your letters to:

TOP ROPE, Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571

[Editor's Note: The opinions expressed in this column are those of the letter writers and Eddie Ellner himself. They do not necessarily represent the editorial views of this magazine.]

WRITING THIS COLUMN reminds me of the joke "Why couldn't the leper win at poker? Because he had a rotten hand." Wrestling fans neglect the truth, dwelling instead in their netherworlds of sustained myth. It's impossible to repudiate these myths without seeming to champion opposing values. People hear the music they want to hear. The cards seem stacked against me. Rather the flesh of my body be ripped asunder by wild pigeons than I settle for anything less than the spirit of truth. The power to change people falls unfortunately beyond my ambit. On to what is important. On to the mail:

Dear Eddie Ellner,

Don't you think it was wonderful that Mike Von Erich won the Inspirational Wrestler of the Year Award? What a fitting tribute to a born fighter.

KENDRAS HANK
Laredo, TX

Dear Kendras Hank,

While I'm overjoyed that Mike Von Erich survived his illness, I don't see what this has to do with the sport of wrestling. Wrestling awards should reward excellence in the ring. And if anybody should be payed homage for Mike Von Erich's recovery, it's his doctors. More deserving of this award are men like Steve Williams, Bruiser Brody, and Roddy Piper. Even Tito Santana would have made more sense than Mike Von Erich.

Mike Von Erich is no more worthy of the Inspirational Wrestler of the Year award than I am. The winner should have been somebody who displayed courage *in* the ring.

Dear Mr. Ellner,

Where the hell has Roddy Piper been? Not that I miss him, mind you, but if he's dead or something I'd like to know about it. I don't expect you to print a question that somehow doesn't flatter you, so maybe you'll turn this over to someone who cares.

JOHN TAYLOR
Wildwood, NJ

Dear Mr. Taylor,

I've turned your letter over to the local precinct and the FBI, who need to keep tabs on anti-social miscreants like yourself. It certainly doesn't flatter me to have someone of your pathetic intelligence write me letters, so that should prove to you the veracity of this column, dodo. My job, however, is not to insult, but to inform. Roddy Piper is concentrating on his broadcasting career. Apparently, the lack of any decent competition in the WWF has him fed up and he would rather speak to the morons than wrestle them. A wise decision.

Mr. Ellner,

Why does the WWF still keep the fact that Randy Savage and Lanny Poffo are brothers under wraps? They've done some silly things, but this one tops all.

JANE RUBICAN
Brooklyn Heights, NY

(Continued on page 62)

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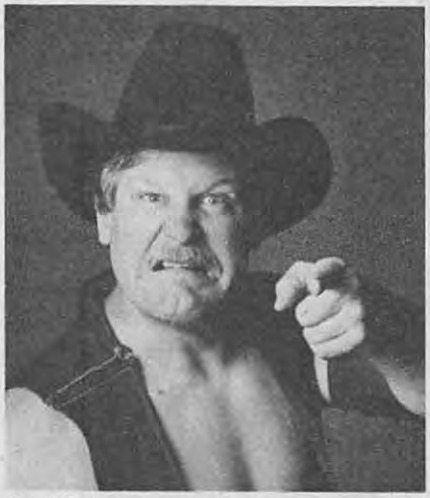

Stan Hansen

SINGLES

1. **RIC FLAIR**
   243, Minneapolis, MN
   NWA World champion
2. **HULK HOGAN**
   302, Venice Beach, CA
   WWF World champion
3. **DUSTY RHODES**
   302, Austin, TX
   National heavyweight champion
4. **MAGNUM T.A.**
   245, Chesapeake, VA
   U.S. heavyweight champion
5. **STAN HANSEN**
   322, Borger, TX
   AWA World champion
6. **RANDY SAVAGE**
   245, Sarasota, FL
   No. 2 contender to WWF World title
7. **KERRY VON ERICH**
   260, Denton, TX
   No. 7 contender to NWA World title
8. **NIKITA KOLOFF**
   275, Moscow, Russia
   No. 5 contender to NWA World title
9. **SGT. SLAUGHTER**
   310, Parris Island, SC
   Americas champion
10. **RICK MARTEL**
    236, Quebec City, Quebec
    No. 2 contender to AWA World title

TAG TEAMS

1. **THE ROAD WARRIORS**
   No. 1 contenders to AWA World tag team title
   Combined weight: 567 pounds
2. **RICK MORTON & ROBERT GIBSON**
   NWA World tag team champions
   Combined weight: 453 pounds
3. **IVAN & NIKITA KOLOFF**
   No. 1 contenders to NWA tag team title
   Combined weight: 524 pounds
4. **GREG VALENTINE & BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**
   WWF World tag team champions
   Combined weight: 511 pounds
5. **OLE & ARN ANDERSON**
   National tag team champions
   Combined weight: 525 pounds
6. **DYNAMITE KID & DAVEY BOY SMITH**
   No. 1 contenders to WWF tag team title
   Combined weight: 461 pounds
7. **STEVE WILLIAMS & TED DiBIASE**
   Mid-South tag team champions
   Combined weight: 542 pounds
8. **JIM GARVIN & STEVE REGAL**
   AWA World tag team champions
   Combined weight: 473 pounds
9. **KERRY & KEVIN VON ERICH**
   No. 1 contenders to World Class tag team title
   Combined weight: 499 pounds
10. **DENNIS CONDREY & BOBBY EATON**
    No. 3 contenders to NWA tag team title
    Combined weight: 454 pounds

NWA

World Champion:
RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN

1. **MAGNUM T.A.** *245, Chesapeake, VA*
2. **DUSTY RHODES** *302, Austin, TX*
3. **HARLEY RACE** *253, Kansas City, MO*
4. **RONNIE GARVIN** *231, Montreal, Quebec*
5. **NIKITA KOLOFF** *275, Moscow, Russia*
6. **WAHOO McDANIEL** *260, Midland, TX*
7. **KERRY VON ERICH** *260, Denton, TX*
8. **BUTCH REED** *265, Kansas City, MO*
9. **LEX LUGAR** *280, Chicago, IL*
10. **BILLY JACK HAYNES** *245, Portland, OR*

AWA

World Champion:
STAN HANSEN
322, Borger, TX

1. **SGT. SLAUGHTER** *310, Parris Island, SC*
2. **RICK MARTEL** *236, Quebec City, Quebec*
3. **LARRY ZBYSZKO** *248, Pittsburgh, PA*
4. **NICK BOCKWINKEL** *245, Beverly Hills, CA*
5. **BORIS ZUKHOV** *254, Leningrad, Russia*
6. **SCOTT HALL** *290, Minneapolis, MN*
7. **THE BARBARIAN** *316, parts unknown*
8. **JIM GARVIN** *235, Tampa, FL*
9. **CURT HENNIG** *235, Minneapolis, MN*
10. **GREG GAGNE** *220, Robbinsdale, MN*

WWF

World Champion:
HULK HOGAN
302, Venice Beach, CA

1. **TITO SANTANA** *245, Mission, TX*
2. **RANDY SAVAGE** *245, Sarasota, FL*
3. **RICK STEAMBOAT** *238, Honolulu, HI*
4. **PAUL ORNDORFF** *253, Brandon, FL*
5. **MAGNIFICENT MURACO** *274, Sunset Beach, HA*
6. **TERRY FUNK** *247, Amarillo, TX*
7. **KING KONG BUNDY** *446, Atlantic City, NJ*
8. **RODDY PIPER** *231, Scotland*
9. **ANDRE THE GIANT** *505, Grenoble, France*
10. **JOHN STUDD** *364, Washington, DC*

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

1. **MAGNUM T.A.** *245, Chesapeake, VA*
2. **DUSTY RHODES** *302, Austin, TX*
3. **KRUSHER KHRUSHCHEV** *303, Thief River Falls, MN*
4. **TULLY BLANCHARD** *235, San Antonio, TX*
5. **NIKITA KOLOFF** *275, Moscow, Russia*
6. **SUPERSTAR GRAHAM** *260, Paradise Valley, AZ*
7. **RONNIE GARVIN** *231, Montreal, Quebec*
8. **KONGA THE BARBARIAN** *265, Chicago, Il*
9. **SAM HOUSTON** *218, Waco, TX*
10. **JIMMY VALIANT** *251, New York, NY*

OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

WORLD CLASS

1—**RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
2—**THE GRAPPLER**
241, parts unknown
3—**BRIAN ADIDAS**
238, Denton, TX
4—**KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
5—**GINO HERNANDEZ**
224, Houston, TX
6—**KEVIN VON ERICH**
239, Denton, TX
7—**CHRIS ADAMS**
230, Stratford, England
8—**LANCE VON ERICH**
260, Dallas, TX
9—**THE MISSING LINK**
273, parts unknown
10—**ICEMAN PARSONS**
242, St. Louis, MO

MID-SOUTH

1—**DICK SLATER**
235, Tampa, FL
2—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
3—**TERRY TAYLOR**
225, Vero Beach, FL
4—**STEVE WILLIAMS**
265, Tulsa, OK
5—**HUMONGOUS**
318, parts unknown
6—**DICK MURDOCH**
270, Waxahachie, TX
7—**BUTCH REED**
265, Kansas City, MO
8—**TED DiBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
9—**BUZZ SAWYER**
240, St. Petersburg, FL
10—**JAKE ROBERTS**
243, Baton Rouge, LA

FLORIDA

1—**LEX LUGAR**
280, Chicago, IL
2—**KENDALL WINDHAM**
220, Sweetwater, TX
3—**BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
4—**KEVIN SULLIVAN**
239, Boston, MA
5—**MIKE GRAHAM**
229, Tampa, FL
6—**BLACKJACK MULLIGAN**
310, Sweetwater, TX
7—**MAHA SINGH**
273, Tampa, FL
8—**TYREE PRIDE**
231, Haiti
9—**WAHOO McDANIEL**
260, Midland, TX
10—**HECTOR GUERRERO**
243, Mexico

MID-SOUTHERN

1—**BILL DUNDEE**
214, Melbourne, Australia
2—**DUTCH MANTEL**
242, Bucksnorth, TN
3—**KOKO WARE**
229, Union City, TN
4—**PHIL HICKERSON**
238, Jackson, TN
5—**HARLEY RACE**
253, Kansas City, MO
6—**BUDDY LANDELL**
236, Los Angeles, CA
7—**TARRAS BULBA**
237, Outer Mongolia
8—**BOTA**
270, Maori Islands
9—**JERRY JARRETT**
223, Nashville, TN
10—**TOJO YAMAMOTO**
230, Tokyo, Japan

CONTINENTAL

1—**ROBERT FULLER**
238, Dyresburg, TN
2—**EXOTIC ADRIAN STREET**
227, South Wales
3—**ROBERTO SOTO**
231, San Juan, Puerto Rico
4—**BRAD ARMSTRONG**
226, Marietta, GA
5—**TIM HORNER**
235, Morristown, TN
6—**THE BULLET**
234, parts unknown
7—**MR. OLYMPIA**
245, parts unknown
8—**RON FULLER**
275, Knoxville, TN
9—**TOMMY RICH**
238, Hendersonville, TN
10—**JOHNNY RICH**
232, Hendersonville, TN

NORTHWEST

1—**BOBBY JAGGERS**
265, Dunlap, KS
2—**BILLY JACK HAYNES**
245, Portland
3—**RIP OLIVER**
245, Tampa, FL
4—**MEGA MAHARISHI**
260, Portland, OR
5—**MIKE MILLER**
260, Memphis, TN
6—**TOM ZENK**
237, Robbinsdale, MN
7—**MOONDOG MORETTI**
245, Boise, ID
8—**GARY ROYAL**
231, Kansas City, MO
9—**BRADY BOONE**
236, Charlotte, NC
10—**BILLY TWO EAGLES**
223, San Antonio, TX

MOST POPULAR

1—**HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
2—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
3—**KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
4—**MAGNUM T.A.**
245, Chesapeake, VA
5—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
6—**TITO SANTANA**
245, Mission, TX
7—**KEVIN VON ERICH**
239, Denton, TX
8—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, New York, NY
9—**BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
10—**HILLBILLY JIM**
282, Mud Lick, KY

MOST HATED

1—**RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
2—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
3—**DICK MURDOCH**
270, Waxahachie, TX
4—**MAGNIFICENT MURACO**
274, Sunset Beach, HI
5—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
276, Moscow, Russia
6—**RODDY PIPER**
231, Glasgow, Scotland
7—**STAN HANSEN**
322, Borger, TX
8—**CHRIS ADAMS**
230, Stratford, England
9—**STEVE WILLIAMS**
295, Tulsa, OK
10—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX

PWI's Top 10 is based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board.

NWA, AWA, and WWF ratings, in addition to the regional ratings from around the country, are based on the official current position of challengers to the top title in each category. (Certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings). Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and mail that comes to our offices.

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Mailbag. The Most Hated category appears to be the most hated category, judging by this month's mail. The category is under seige by fans from around the country. Kevin Beck, of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, hurls this sling at us:

Tully Blanchard

My stomach turned and churned after I finished the ratings in the February 1986 issue. ***Tully Blanchard*** *number one most hated? C'mon and get a clue, staff. Forget that he is my favorite wrestler in the world. I know dozens and dozens of devoted ring fans who also list Tully among their favorites. Especially since the shapely* ***Baby Doll*** *joined him. She's toned down his act considerably, something your magazine should have noticed. I thought you guys had your heads on the pulse of professional wrestling. Instead it seems you have your heads somewhere else, Tully Blanchard rules!*

Excuse us, Kevin, but when several of our staff attended a recent Blanchard-**Magnum T.A.** match, the spiked curses and boos hurled at Blanchard drowned out our thoughts. And, as we're sure you know by now, he's on Baby Doll's most hated list as well.

From St. Paul, Minnesota, Beth Gnerer writes about NWA champion **Ric Flair,** whose position atop the Most Hated ratings has remained unchanged for three months. *"I think you're terribly misjudging the popularity of fat* ***Dusty Rhodes.*** *Not many people were shocked when Flair broke his ankle. I know my friends likened it to putting a dog or horse out of its misery. By racking Dusty up, Flair prevented Rhodes from further injuring himself in the ring. Flair has a style and panache that intimidates people. I'd say he's the most copied and admired athlete in professional sports. Everyone wants to be as cool as Ric Flair."*

If you look at **Liz Hunter's** column, Beth, you'll find that you're not alone.

And finally, we received this letter from an 87-year-old great-grandmother from Indianapolis, who claims that *"****Roddy Piper*** *is the only man in the world who can still make my blood boil."* Abigail Chaplin continues, *"I can't believe that so many people can hate this adorable little Scottish Terrier. He is so cute that I named two of my cat's kittens after him. One is Hot Rod, the other I named Pit Boss, after Roddy's TV show. Roddy is a welcome addition to my home and I often invite neighbors over for milk and cornbread when his show is on."*

We can think of nothing to add.

Why and why nots. For the first time since they were dethroned as AWA tag team champions, **The Road Warriors** are no longer rated as the top contenders for *both* the AWA and NWA belts. While **Hawk** and **Animal** still maintain their position as the top contenders for the AWA tag team title, **Ivan** and **Nikita Koloff** (along with **Krusher Khrushchev**) have vaulted past them in the NWA ratings. The Warriors are number two in the NWA, although space problems on the ratings page do not allow us to indicate so . . . **Stan Hansen's** number five rating in the Top 10 is not an oversight. Look for the AWA champion to crack the top three once he puts a month's worth of title defenses under his belt . . . Only **Jim Garvin** and **Steve Regal** remained with rookie **Scott Hall** in the $100,000 St. Paul battle royal. One can see Garvin's eyes glisten as he dreamed up ways to spend his split of the dough. Unfortunately, Scott Hall didn't share Garvin's dreams, so he dumped the tag team champs over the ropes and claimed the big prize all for himself. (He donated the entire sum to charity.) It is precisely for this reason—their inability to work together—that Garvin and Regal remain in the bottom half of our tag team ratings. Until they prove their mettle in the ring (and courage out of it, by granting matches to deserving teams), they will move no higher.

Listen carefully. One way of calculating the kind of month a world champion has had is to concentrate on the individual ratings of his federation. The NWA, AWA, and WWF ratings are not a consensus of our Ratings Committee, as are the Top 10. They are simply a listing of regional champions (some of whose postions are predetermined depending upon the title) and of the men receiving title shots, regardless of their ratings in the Top 10. These two categories are mutually exclusive, which means that a regional champion rated number three in the NWA ratings may not be getting any title shots, yet occupies that slot soley on account of his itle. If there is a disparity between the *PWI* Top 10 and each federation's top 10, then you can determine the quality of the champion's opposition.

Ric Flair

For instance: **Hulk Hogan,** ranked second in *PWI's* Top 10 and first in the WWF, is wrestling his number one contender in the WWF, **Randy Savage,** who is also the highest rated WWF wrestler in Top 10. So we can see that Hogan is wrestling his top competition this month.

The same is true of AWA champion **Stan Hansen.** Hansen, rated fifth in *PWI's* Top 10 and first in the AWA, is wrestling **Sgt. Slaughter** and **Rick Martel,** who are rated respectively one and two in the AWA, and are also the highest rated AWA wrestlers in *PWI's* Top 10.

Not so with **Ric Flair.** Flair has given numerous title shots this month to **Harley Race, Ronnie Garvin,** and **Wahoo McDaniel,** which would account for their high positions in the NWA ratings (three, four, and six, respectively), but none of these men are rated in the *PWI* Top 10.

If you're still with us, consider yourself a doctoral candidate *summa cum laude* in wrestling analysis.

The address: Pro or con, we want to hear from you. Send your darts and laurels to: "Ratings Analysis" c/o *Pro Wrestling Illustrated,* Box 48; Rockville Centre, New York, 11571. □

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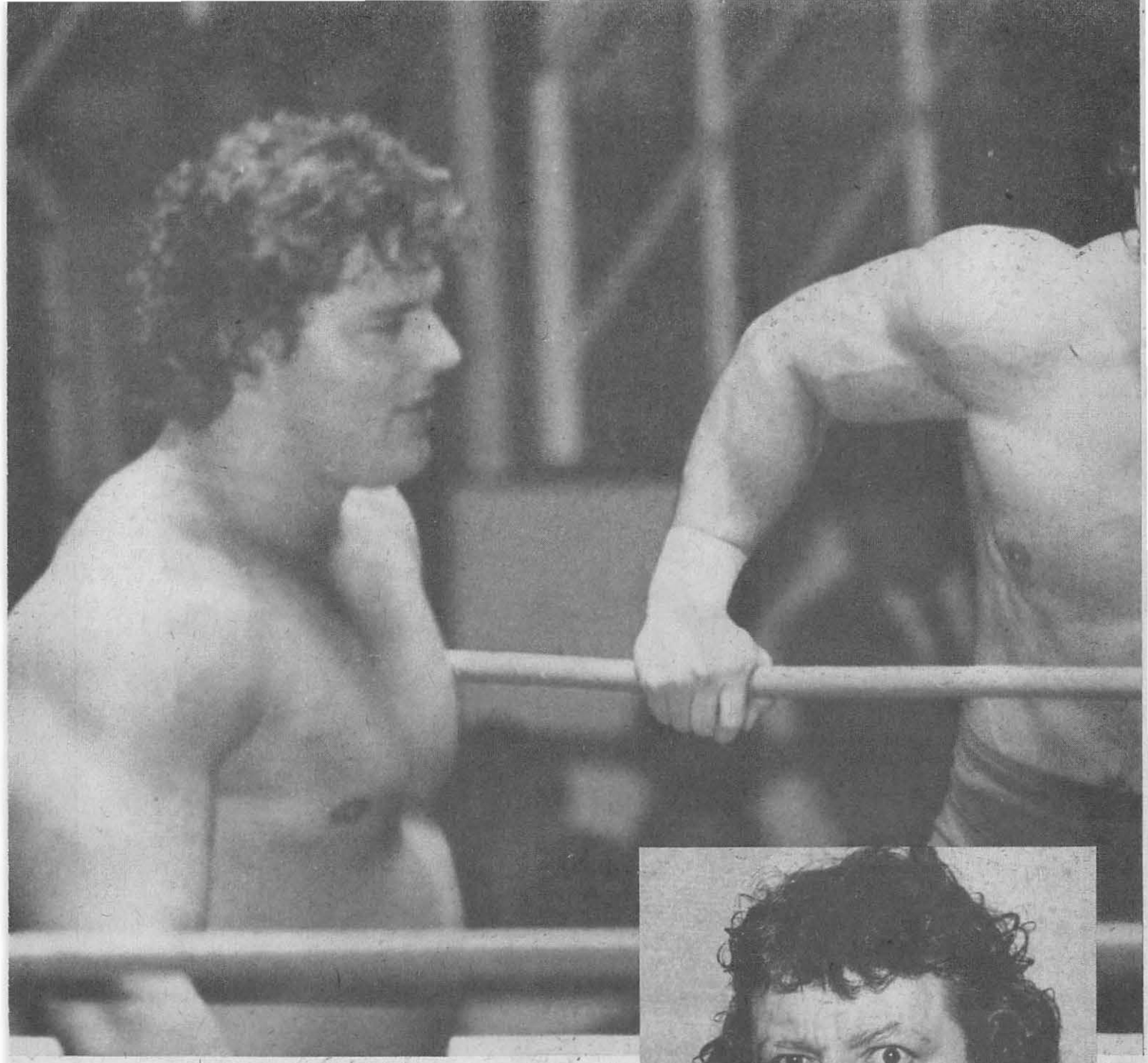

You Can't Teach An Old Manager New Tricks:

Captain Lou Albano is a remarkably successful manager. But is he a genius, and if so, can he make any tag team champions? It could be that Albano's own reptuation may be detrimental in his relationship with The British Bulldogs

IS LOU ALBANO RUINING THE BRITISH BULLDOGS?

By Liz Hunter

CAPT. LOU ALBANO is not necessarily a genius.

Albano recently purchased the contracts of the best tag team in the WWF, The British Bulldogs. (With the dissolution of Barry Windham and Mike Rotondo, the Bulldogs' preeminence in the WWF tag team sweepstakes is self-evident.) News of their deal electrified the wrestling world. It is now being taken for granted that the Bulldogs will win the WWF tag team championship. The Dynamite Kid, Davey Boy Smith, and Lou Albano are an indomitable combo, so they say.

Davey Boy Smith positions Jim Neidhardt for a vertical suplex. Can Lou Albano further The British Bulldogs' scientific expertise?

I wonder. And my sources also wonder.

Instead of treating the Bulldogs/Albano combo pizza as a gourmet godsend, we need to fully explore the deal.

Why did the Bulldogs hire Albano in the first place?

If we can assume, in proper theoretical fashion, that they hired him to benefit their career in some way, we are forced to ask how and why Albano can do so.

● *Albano is a brilliant strategist. He is a tactical mastermind. His intellect will aid The British Bulldogs in their quest for the title.*

This is the prototypical function of wrestling managers. And Albano's unprecedented success as a manager would seem to indicate plenty of marbles rattling around in that scarred, ugly noggin.

But has Albano's strategic ability led his prior teams to championship glory? No. Albano's teams have almost unfailingly won their titles through rulebreaking. The Captain's intellect is striking only in comparison with his tag teams. *That* is the truest key to his success. He has demonstrated an uncanny knack for taking raw savages—The Moondogs, The Samoans, The Mongols—and teaching them the rudiments of wrestling in order to channel their sadism through bodyslams

Photos by David Fitzgerald

and other power moves that lead to pinfalls. Albano certainly *is* a genius at socializing ignorant maniacs. If you find a demented cannibal on some uncharted desert isle who gnaws on trees and throttles mad hyenas with his bare hands, send him to Albano and the Captain will make him a champ.

But The British Bulldogs? Albano knows no maneuver they can't execute already. One may argue that teams like the Valiants, the Blackjacks, and Mr. Fuji and Mr. Saito benefitted from Albano's expertise. But Albano merely bought their contracts from other managers long after they established themselves. That is exactly what he has done with the Bulldogs—and it has made more than a sizable dent in his sizable bank account.

Dynamite Kid and Davey Boy Smith work brilliantly in combination against "The Anvil." The Bulldogs apparently feel Albano can help them win the WWF tag team title.

Anyone who has seen the Britons in action should realize that no manager can make The Dynamite Kid's vertical suplex any faster, or Davey Boy Smith's powerslam more devastating. The question arises: Do they need Albano, or vice versa?

Can a specialist in taming and socializing brawlers work efficiently with the most scientific tag team in the WWF?

The Bulldogs seem to have perfected the science of tag team wrestling and can beat virtually any team in the sport. Some wrestling experts feel that Albano's influence will dilute their strength, which is scientific wrestling.

● *The Bulldogs need Albano to book title matches with Greg Valentine and Brutus Beefcake.*

An acceptable theory, but it hasn't worked out that way. Just as we go to press, we can report a stunning pinfall victory: The Bulldogs over Beefcake and Valentine at Nassau Coliseum in Long Island. Trouble is, it was a non-title match.

That can't be what they hired a manager for. Unless they were mistaken. There is no conceivable reason why The British Bulldogs should have accepted a non-title match after all they have accomplished over the past year. Apparently, hiring a manager of Albano's respectability and influence has *not* led them any closer to the World title.

It is indeed difficult to hack through the tangled web of WWF championship politics, but if anyone can do so it would be a WWF veteran like Lou Albano. Besides, the Bulldogs are obviously the number-one fan favorite team in the federation, and the champions are rulebreakers. Where is the problem? I have been investigating this story for months, trying desperately to penetrate WWF intelligence, and I can't get any answers. Albano himself continues to insist that he is "working on" a series of title matches. Time is running out; the Bulldogs are in danger of being forgotten, and if another popular team wins the tag title, they'll be sunk.

● *The Bulldogs need a financial manager to get their worries off money matters and concentrate on wrestling.*

Some managers in wrestling are noted for their business acumen. Lou Albano is not one of them. Ask Jimmy Snuka. Albano lost hundreds of thousands of the Superfly's hard-earned bucks through negligent investments. It led to accusations of cheating on both sides, and it wasn't the first time in Albano's career something like that had happened. If this was the reason Kid and Smith hired Albano, they made the worst conceivable choice; Arnold Skaaland and the much-maligned Miss Elizabeth, to name two, have more than a working knowledge of practical wrestling economics.

By the time you read this, The Dynamite Kid and Davey Boy Smith may have already won a well-deserved WWF tag team title, and Captain Lou will have the last laugh. That would be fine with me—more power to them. I get along very well with the Captain, who harbors a deep and abiding respect for journalists that no other wrestling manager shares. And the Bulldogs are the most exciting tag team fans have been privileged to see since The Road Warriors' debut. But I'm sorry to say that if they do win the title, it will be despite Albano. It's time for the Captain to take another scouting mission for new talent, and dispense with sharing the glory with established wrestlers. □

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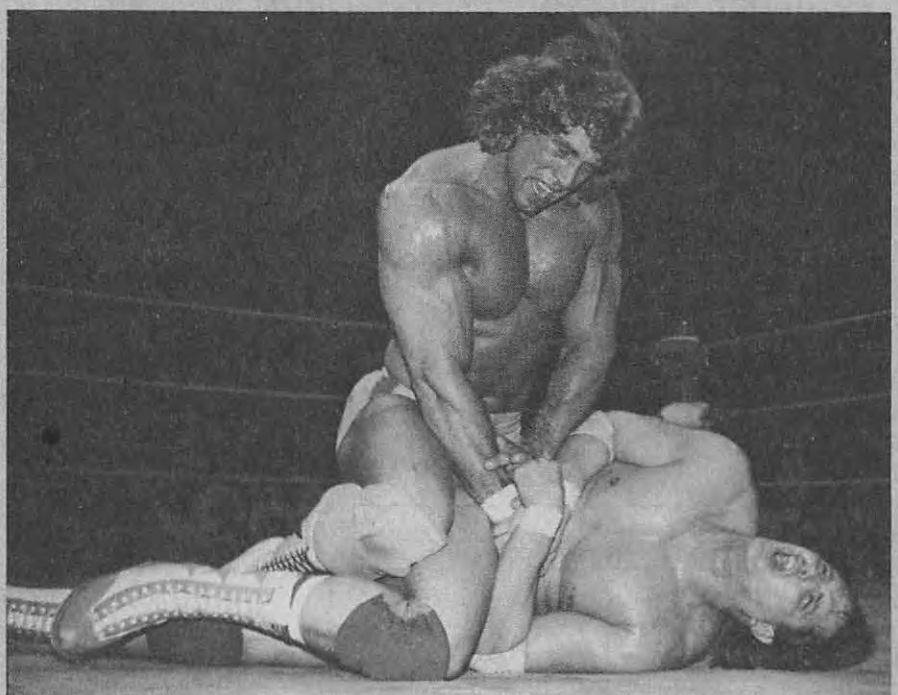
PRESS CONFERENCE
KERRY VON ERICH



Kerry Von Erich's iron claw, firmly attached to Chris Adams' midsection, is excruciatingly painful. Kerry is once again in the forefront of World Class events.

REMEMBER KERRY VON ERICH? He of the lavish locks and bursting biceps? The temporary custodian of the NWA World championship for 19 dazzling days in 1984? Originator of at least 175 heart palpitations per girl per match? Kerry is alive and virile and still wrestling in Texas, although, during the last half of 1985, he chose to defer his limelight to the other members of his family.

With one brother seriously ill, another battling seriously for the NWA title, and a cousin emerging from out of nowhere, Kerry had the opportunity to concentrate on his wrestling while the media filed past his locker on their way to the lockers of Mike, Kevin, and Lance. Kerry welcomed the respite. For the first time since he turned professional seven years ago, Kerry was ignored by the press, although his popularity in the ring went unchecked.

As 1986 began, attention focused back on "The Modern-Day Warrior." Since Mike has almost fully recovered, Kevin's attention shifted from Ric Flair back to Chris Adams, and the novelty of Lance Von Erich has worn off, Kerry Von Erich is ready to assume his position as the family's primary spokesman. Kerry Von Erich will make statements, both in and out of the ring in the coming year.

He begins here, discussing the tumultuous year of 1985 and his expectations for 1986 with Assistant Editors Eddie Ellner and Jim Schuermann and Senior Editor Bill Apter.

"The media has been trying to spark controversy within our family ever since we stepped foot in the ring. You'd think they'd have learned something by now."

JIM SCHUERMANN: Ric Flair is laying the foundation for a one-man dynasty in the NWA. You couldn't defeat him, nor could your brother and cousin. Is Ric Flair unbeatable?

KERRY VON ERICH: Absolutely not. What makes Flair so difficult, aside from his natural abilities, is his willingness to win at any cost, even if it means losing.

EDDIE ELLNER: You mean he hasn't an aversion to the disqualification rule that protects champions.

VON ERICH: Exactly. And until they change that rule, it will be very difficult to defeat Flair. He has refined the art of self-disqualification. Of course it doesn't say much for his title reign. Any fool can get himself disqualified.

ELLNER: You wouldn't do the same then, I gather, if you could regain the NWA title.

VON ERICH: No way! I think it distorts the meaning of the word champion. A champion is a man who manages to defeat his opponent, not who allows his opponent to defeat him. Flair is like the Central Division of the AFC in football. The winner has a .500 record. It's absurd. And what's more absurd is the NWA not taking any action on the rule. Why train like an animal to beat Flair if he's going to beat himself.

Kerry applies a hammerlock aginst NWA champ Ric Flair. Kerry has little respect for a champion who will wrestle not necessarily to win, but to protect his championship.

SCHUERRMANN: So you would give up instead?

VON ERICH: No. Of course you never give up. Being number one is what it's all about. You just have to go about it

(Continued on page 56)

SPECIAL CONTEST!

The Road Warriors WANT YOU!

"HEY, TWERP, DO YOU HAVE THE GUTS TO MEET US?"

This is for real. You won't talk to The Road Warriors by telephone, and you won't get a letter from them. You'll meet them—IN PERSON! This is undoubtedly the greatest wrestling contest of all time!

ROAD WARRIOR ANIMAL pounded his chest, leaving visible indentations in the skin where the steel spikes of his wristlets nearly punctured the flesh. But Animal wasn't in pain. In fact, he was smiling.

"Yeah, that's right!," Animal shouted. "Guts! No wimps, no bozos, no zeroes, no loonies, no clowns . . ."

". . . and we don't want no jokers," Road Warrior Hawk added, "no weaklings, no feeble-minded, flimsy, broken down and lame . . ."

"Gentlemen, gentlemen, let us please try to maintain a sense of decorum and dignity if at all possible." As so often happens with The Legion of Doom, Precious Paul Ellering's words were the soothing ointment to their burning fires of overenthusiasm.

"Please," Ellering continued, "we must understand of course that any individual privileged to gain entry to the inner sanctum of the Legion of Doom will in fact be a worthy recipient of that rare honor."

"Yeah, well how's that gonna happen?" Hawk barked. "Look, we don't wanna . . ."

The Road Warriors take calls from fans at a St. Paul radio station (above). Now you can meet them in person—and you don't even have to look like them to prove you're worthy (below).

"Now hold on a second, Hawkus, let's just take it easy," Ellering said. "We have a certain amount of control over this contest, provided by the generous folks at *Pro Wrestling Illustrated.* That is to say, any contest will necessitate some sort of an effort on the part of the individual entrant in order to qualify for consideration. After all, they're going to be brought from where they live to meet us, at no travel expense to them."

Ellering stroked his beard thoughtfully, then a gleam came into his eye.

"Of course, the obvious thing that would make perfect sense," Ellering said, "is that if we want the winner of this contest to be a person with guts, then that person should tell us what he or she did at one point in his or her life that required guts, courage, and bravery. We'll have them give us an example of their own bravery by telling us of their own experience that called for courage."

"Yeah, like telling us face to face that me and my brother Animal here are a couple of sissies!"

Hawk and Animal laughed juicily.

"Now, let's be serious here, boys," Ellering said. "We want to know which fan has the most guts, because not only does it take guts to *meet* The Legion of Doom, but it takes guts to *be* in The Legion of Doom. And in effect, that's what will happen. The winner of this contest will become a member of The Legion of Doom for a night.

"They'll be able to talk to us, ask us questions, give us advice . . ."

"Yeah," Animal said, "and we

Animal grabs Gorgeous Jim Garvin in a headlock. Garvin and his partner, Steve Regal, would probably not be in the running to win this contest.

CONTEST

Send your entry to:
ROAD WARRIOR CONTEST
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Box 48
Rockville Centre, NY 11571

Entries must be postmarked no later than March 25, 1986. All essays will be screened by a panel of editors. The winner will be notified by telephone and announced in the August 1986 edition of Pro Wrestling Illustrated. Shortly after contacting the winner, Pro Wrestling Illustrated magazine will make arrangements for that individual to meet Road Warriors Hawk and Animal and Precious Paul Ellering in person prior to an evening's card of matches. All entries become the property of TV Sports, Inc.

Do you have the guts to meet The Road Warriors? Prove it! In 50 words or less, complete the following:

"You'd better believe I have enough guts to meet The Road Warriors! Want proof? Just listen to this _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: ____ Age: ____

Telephone number: _____

Hawk applies a painful armbar against newly crowned AWA World champion Stan Hansen. Hansen is more like the kind of person the Warriors would like to meet.

don't answer no questions from any wimps or geeks that don't have no backbone!"

"That's right," Hawk added, "and we don't wanna meet no puke-faced punks who're gonna ask us stupid questions. We want somebody with guts enough to meet us, and guts enough to ask us any question he or she wants, and not some jerk who's gonna leave us and then start whining to his friends how he should have done this when he had the chance, or he should have asked us that."

"Well," Ellering said, "I'm sure that when we receive all these letters from the fans, we'll be able to find out easily enough which one of them has the most guts. And we'll all have a good time reading the letters anyway, right boys?"

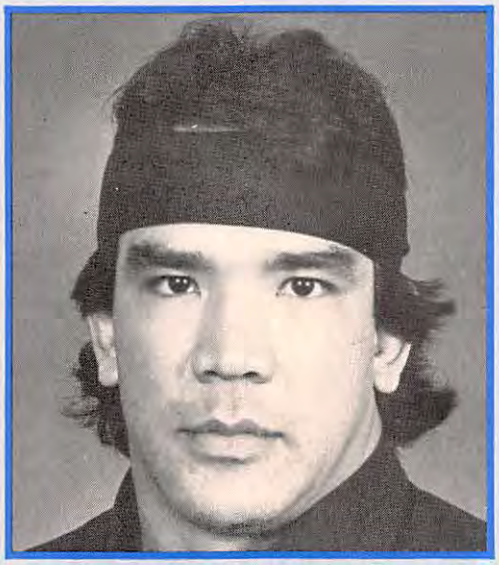
Hawk and Animal looked at Ellering, then looked at each other. They smiled, then laughed. Then they left the room, laughing harder every step of the way.

Ellering stroked his beard. "I think I've got my work cut out for me!" □

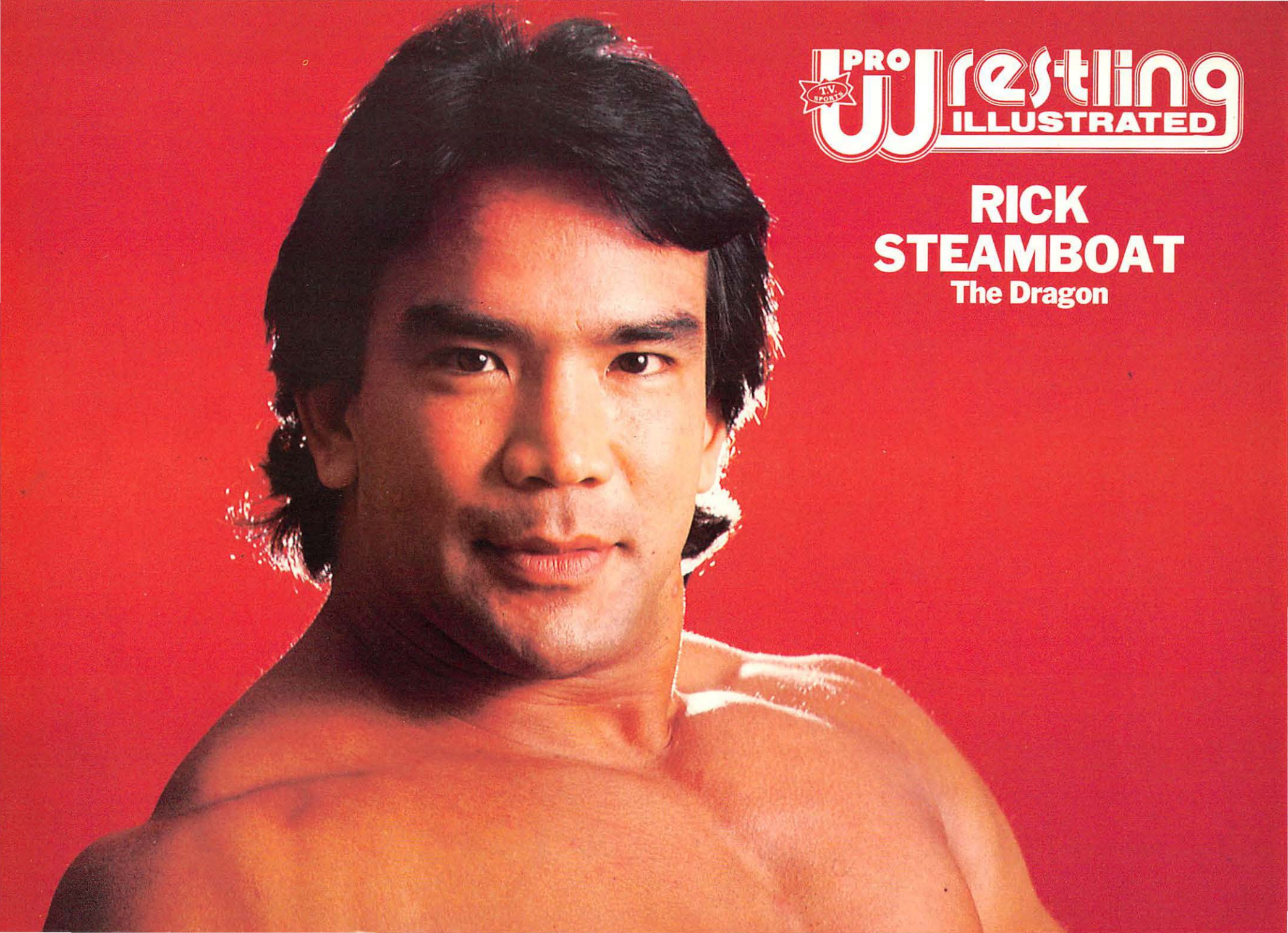
PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED
TV. SPORTS

CLOSE-UP

RICK STEAMBOAT



Rick "The Dragon" Steamboat is a 10-year veteran of the professional ranks . . . The 6'1" star currently carries 238 pounds on his frame . . . Was born February 28, 1953, in Hawaii . . . When he was five years old, Steamboat's family moved to St. Petersburg, Florida . . . Attended school in St. Petersburg, and says that his worst subject was English, while his best subjects were American history, American government, and mathematics . . . At the age of six, became interested in sports, particularly baseball . . . Played second base and pitched on several junior teams, and always batted cleanup . . . While in junior high school got his first taste of wrestling . . . Also started playing football . . . Continued on both the mat and the gridiron through college . . . Was two-time Florida state wrestling champion . . . While in high school, Rick's hobby was building cars . . . In addition to wrestling and football in high school, Rick also played basketball and competed in track and field events . . . An excellent all-round athlete, Steamboat knew that he wanted a career in sports . . . Though wrestling was his favorite sport, he never thought he would become a pro . . . Instead felt that he would become a gym instructor . . . A three-year wait to get into Florida schools for gym instruction didn't even discourage him . . . While waiting to enter school, Rick earned money by selling vacuum cleaners door-to-door, bouncing at night clubs, and pumping gas . . . One day was watching *Wide World Of Sports* and saw an interview with Chris Taylor . . . The show sparked Rick's interest in turning pro . . . In his interview, Taylor spoke of Verne Gagne's wrestling camp in Minnesota . . . Steamboat obtained Gagne's address and sent him a resume and a photo . . . Gagne called Eddie Graham in Florida to check up on Rick's amateur background, and soon thereafter accepted Steamboat into his camp . . . After a one-year wait, during which he placed himself on a rigid physical training regimen, Rick began training for the pro ranks under Gagne's guidance . . . His progress in the school was swift, and Rick graduated after about five months of intensive training . . . Rick's first pro match came on February 15, 1976, in Minneapolis . . . Scored a victory over Scott Irwin . . . Wrestled briefly in the AWA before moving to the Georgia area for about a year . . . Feuded with Baron Von Raschke there . . . First received major national attention when he moved to the Mid-Atlantic area in 1977 . . . Immediately hailed as one of the best scientific stars in the sport . . . In the middle of '77, began a feud that would continue on and off for nearly eight years by capturing the Mid-Atlantic TV title from Ric Flair . . . Would also win the U.S. title from Flair later in the year . . . Voted "Rookie of the Year" in the 1977 fan poll now conducted in *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* . . . 1978 saw Steamboat join forces with Paul Jones to capture the Mid-Atlantic tag team title and the NWA World tag team belts . . . Steamboat and Jones were voted 1978's Tag Team of the Year by the fans . . . Split with Jones soon thereafter . . . Defeated Ric Flair for the U.S. title once again in early 1979 . . . Felt cheated by the NWA because he was denied a title shot at then-NWA World champion Harley Race . . . In the Summer of '79, Steamboat came close to capturing the AWA World title when then-champion Nick Bockwinkel made a rare defense in the Mid-Atlantic . . . Steamboat's feud with Flair turned to friendship, and the team challenged for the NWA World tag belts held by Baron Von Raschke and Steamboat's former partner, Paul Jones . . . Feuded violently with Jimmy Snuka, Greg Valentine, and Roddy Piper . . . Captured the Mid-Atlantic title from The Iron Sheik in late 1980 . . . Also held the NWA World tag team title with Jay Youngblood in 1980, losing the belts to Jimmy Snuka and Ray Stevens . . . 1981 would see Ivan Koloff win that title from Steamboat (holding it for six months), Rick regain the belt from Ivan, and subsequently lose it to Roddy Piper three weeks later . . . The first rumors of retirement occurred in 1982 . . . Late in that year, however, Rick declared he had a plan and was "one year away from winning the NWA World title" . . . In 1983 Rick would not fulfill his plan, mainly since he devoted himself to tag team wrestling with partner Jay Youngblood, capturing the NWA World tag title on three separate occasions that year . . . The third reign came to an end when Rick decided to retire so he could devote all his time to managing "Rick Steamboat's Mid-Atlantic Gym" in Charlotte, North Carolina . . . Returned to the ring after several months and defeated Dick Slater for the U.S. title . . . Held the title for two months . . . Continued to ride high atop the NWA ratings, and challenged Ric Flair for the NWA World title on many occasions . . . Entered the WWF late in the Summer of 1985 . . . Altered his style by concentrating on martial arts maneuvers more than conventional scientific wrestling . . . Adopted the name "The Dragon" . . . Noted as a top contender for the WWF Intercontinental title . . . Feuded heavily with Magnificent Muraco and his manager Mr. Fuji . . . Muraco and Fuji have become the bane of Steamboat's WWF existence, throwing powder and salt in Rick's eyes on several occasions . . . Steamboat has lost some peripheral vision as a result . . . Muraco and Fuji even went so far as to hang Steamboat by the neck over the top rope . . . As 1986 is upon us, it seems that Steamboat's feud with Muraco can only escalate. □


PRO
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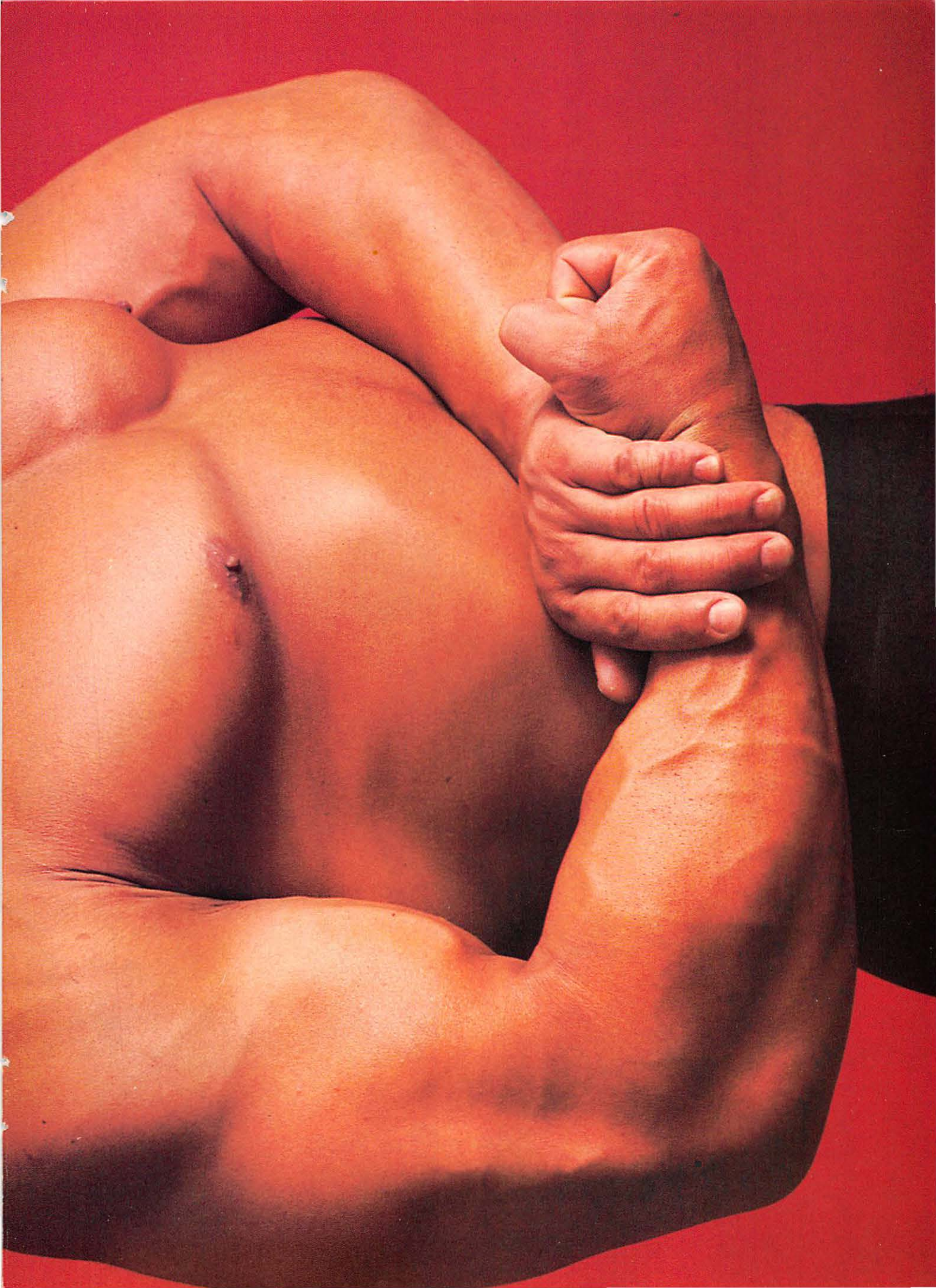
ILLUSTRATED
RICK
STEAMBOAT
The Dragon



PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

CLOSE-UP

TOUGHEST OPPPONENT

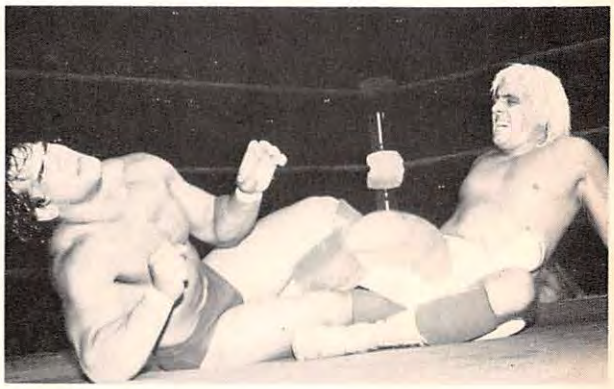
Ric Flair. Many analysts feel that it is Steamboat's failure to wrest the NWA World title from Ric Flair that forced him into several tenures of semiretirement. Steamboat's matches with Flair were legendary, but the champion always managed to be successful in retaining his coveted 10 pounds of gold.

MOST HATED OPPONENT

Magnificent Muraco. Hatred is a painfully immediate emotion, and while Steamboat has had some viciously brutal feuds in past years, his immediate object of despisal is certainly Magnificent Muraco. The two men have battled in rings across America, and Steamboat has come close to being blinded on several occasions. 1986 will certainly see this feud escalate further.

GREATEST MATCH

March 12, 1983, with Jay Youngblood vs. Sgt. Slaughter & Don Kernodle. This Greensboro, North Carolina, cage match was watched closely by wrestling fans around the world. The blood flowed liberally, particularly from the head of Kernodle, as Steamboat and his partner battled to a glorious victory and captured the NWA World tag team championship.



FAVORITE MANEUVER

Flying bodypress. Steamboat may be known as "The Dragon" these days, and his style may utilize more martial arts than ever before, but his number one weapon remains the flying bodypress from the top rope. Few wrestlers in the sport can execute the move so gracefully and with such precision.

Special Assignment

Photos by Alice Marie Nelson

Trail The Creature Of Death:

SOLVING THE MYSTERY OF HUMONGOUS!

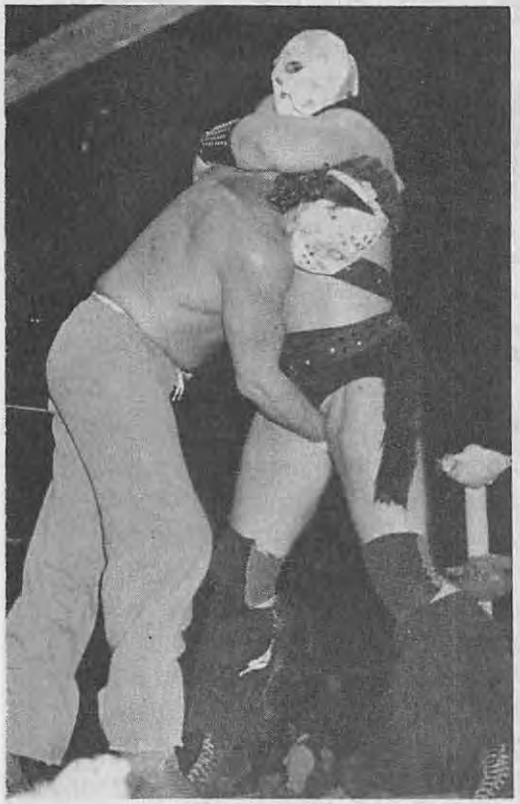
By Matt Brock

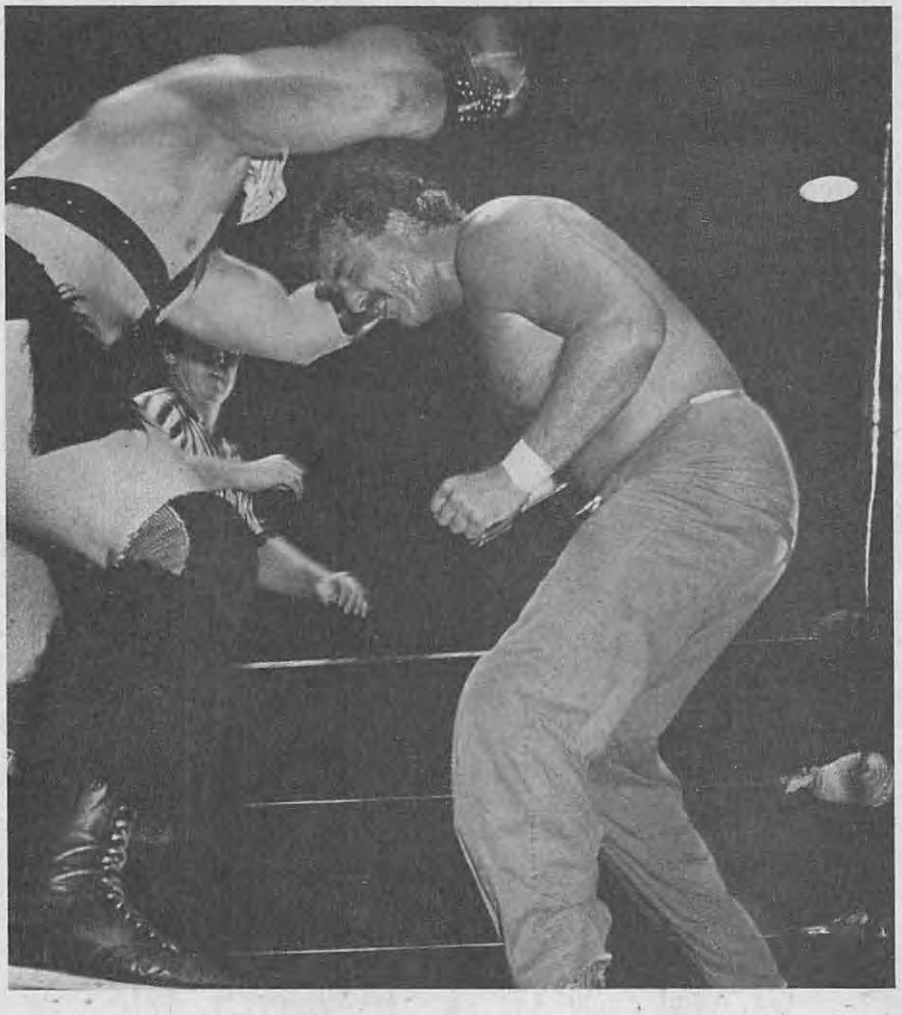
I DECIDED TO trail them from the arena parking lot. Immediately, I felt the urge to bolt. There I sat like some hard-up private eye on a messy divorce case, killing smokes by the minute and swilling rye to soften the chill of the unheated car. As I had figured, they left before the card was over. The little fat guy with a peculiar ambling gait and the towering monster with a black hood draped over its head. Humperdink and Humongous. Just like any other couple of merry blokes gearing up for a night on the town. I geared up my wheels and followed the stretch limo at a safe distance.

It didn't take long for them to give me the slip. The limo blinkered off into what looked like nothing until I passed it. Then I realized they had motored off into a dark dirt path—I wouldn't even call it a road—smack dab in the middle of some endless soybean fields. I knew I couldn't stop immediately, because it would

Sooner or later, every professional journalist is faced with an assignment that means more than a byline or a bonus. *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* has assigned the sport's most legendary investigative reporter, Matt Brock, to disclose Lord Humongous' true identity. We must act as public servants; Humongous has crippled too many young men. His unmasking is a moral imperative

After Mid-South officials declined to forbid Lord Humongous from wearing his plastic hockey mask, Jake Roberts decided to do the same for one night (below). Unprotected, as Jake says a wrestler should be, "The Snake" takes his beating like a man. He is as determined as Matt Brock to reveal Humongous' identity.





arouse suspicion. I sped up and U-turned a mile or so past where they turned off. Returning, I saw the limo abandoned on some poor farmer's field like a tractor without fuel. No one else was there, of course. Who knows what they were driving now.

I could have shaved my root canals with a straight razor in frustration. Instead, I drove back to the motel. Landing in its bar, I ordered Bloody Marys for the vitamin charge. A fresh nightcap for an early start; I'd have to renew my investigation soon after dawn.

Humperdink walked in there halfway past my second juicer. The night wasn't over after all.

He was accompanied by a man who looked like he'd set fire to a panhandler. The man was filthy, faintly Arabic; squinty black eyes, Brillo curls, and a game-show leisure suit. They scanned the rumpus room without ordering, and apparently didn't find what they were looking for. They left 45 seconds before I did. And they left with Humongous—still hooded—hunkered down in the back seat.

This time I trailed them without difficulty. They parked in front of a cocktail lounge. Neon worms advertised the cheap draft outside, but it looked better inside. In fact, I was amazed. It was dark enough and cool enough, like the bars I used to frequent in occupied France during Wolrd War II. A coffee-skinned canary tapped a glistening set of 88s, purring "The Man I Love." The patrons paid more attention to each other than their drinks. My heart melted until I saw Humperdink and his friend in a rear booth.

Humongous was nowhere to be found. Where was he? I positioned myself at the piano bar, with a sharp ear and bleary eyes tuned to the Humperdink table.

Two hours passed without excusing themselves. I *knew* the Lord of Violence was there, but he didn't show. Humperdink and his ugly pal insulted women, quarterbacks, and scientific wrestlers in brazenly obscene terms. Nothing else they jawed about gave me any clues.

Meanwhile, I shook hands with the wild birds of Kentucky and they warmed me with their feathers. I fell in love with the torch pianist, for she symbolized the beauty of a lost era. I flirted, audaciously, for the first time in years. "Angel Eyes," I requested, and she dipped the notes like candle wax. "Only The Lonely," I swooned, and she answered passionately; hell, she blew the Chairman of the Board right off the stage.

"September Of My Years." I requested my favorite. "I don't know *that* tune, Daddy."

I went for broke. "Do you know a Lord? Lord Humongous?"

She gasped, audibly. It wasn't

my inquiry that caught her breath. It was the shadow cast over the soft purple lights, and the fat palm gripping my shoulder.

"Well, what do you know, God's gift to the distilling industry, trying to score! What's the matter, the stories about fighting with Hemingway in Spain don't stir up the ladies anymore?"

I wheeled around drunk enough to punch Humperdink, but sober enough to realize the consequences. "I want to talk to you, buddy," I spat between clenched teeth. "Alone."

I followed him to his table and sat down last. Humperdink introduced me to his greasy-looking date. "I'm not sure whether you have met Muammar Akbar, sir? Executive Director of *Project 2000*?"

Akbar? "A privilege, to be sure," he growled. It felt like he was shaking a thermometer instead of my hand. "Skandor's cousin," Humperdink affirmed chummily. Swell.

"I have two questions for you, Rooster," I barked. "First, *where the hell is Humongous?* He walked in with you tonight! Second, what is Project 2000?"

Humperdink paled. I knew it was the first question that shocked him. Akbar didn't seem concerned about me at all. He ripped a dirty nail from his ring finger with his teeth and insolently spat it into the hurricane lamp.

"Project 2000 is a personal business enterprise," Humperdink finally responded. "You'll find out the details after it's too late. And Humongous is sleeping peacefully as of right now. It's past his curfew. You're obviously drunk and hallucinating."

I started to argue, and got smart in a hurry. That wouldn't do any good. But there was *no way* Humongous could have left without my noticing. I returned to the piano bar to ask my songstress if she had seen a man with a mask.

She wasn't there; the bench was occupied by one of the bouncers, an enormous man with horrifyingly intense pale blue eyes. I asked him where my lark had gone, and he stared off into space without answering, pounding out a lumbering, amateurish boogie-woogie rhythm on the low keys. I had some words with him. I remember being hammerlocked and shoved into a taxi, but that may have been a dream.

The next morning hurt. Ol' Matt rode the porcelain bus cross-country. Eventually, my legs staggered about eight miles from my motel room to the front desk, where I looked into checking out. They had a message for me.

Dear Mr. Brock,

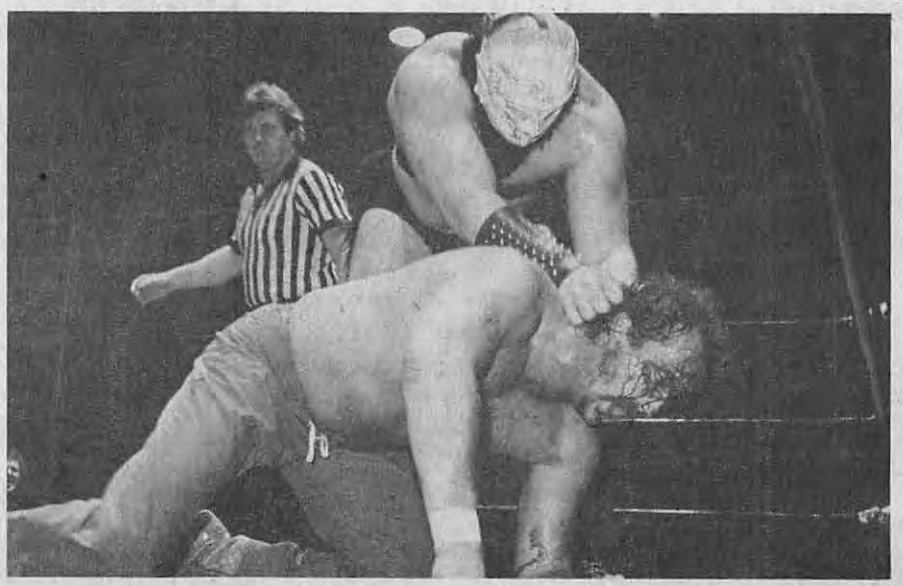
I'm sorry I had to leave without saying goodbye last night. When you ask me a question like that, with such an important man over your shoulder, it's time for a break. You see, I was worried about answering for my sake and my family's sake (you didn't even notice my ring, cutes!). The man who replaced me at piano is the man you were looking for! Please don't involve me or my family in your investigation. Good luck.

It was signed, "Angel Eyes."

And I thought he was a bouncer. Goddamnit! I saw Lord Humongous unmasked, but all I remember are his eyes! Those homicidal, cutting baby blues. But I wouldn't recognize him in a police lineup!

One thing is for certain. I will travel the Mid-South circuit for as long as it takes to hunt him down. Now I know where to find him—in front of a piano. The barbarian's love of music will be his downfall. □

The 6'8", 318-pounder is one of the few men in the sport who can overpower Roberts (top). Humongous viciously rips at his former partner, who, despite his wounds, is trying to regain the initiative to mount a comeback (below).



Scouting Report

A NO-HOLDS-BARRED LOOK AT WRESTLING'S TOP STARS

In this magazine version of its TV counterpart, *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Scouting Reports will examine the relative strengths and weaknesses of wrestling's top stars. There will be no punches pulled as the sport's athletes undergo the harshest scrutiny anywhere in the wrestling world

RANDY SAVAGE

HOME TOWN: Sarasota, FL
HEIGHT: 6'1½"
WEIGHT: 245
YEARS AS PRO: 13
RATING: No. 6 in Top 10; No. 2 in WWF; No. 2 Most Hated

STRENGTHS:

- Fearlessness. Savage is willing to take chances and do anything he has to in order to win a match.
- Conditioning. Possesses excellent stamina. Very devoted to physical training.
- Agility. Can move from the mat to the top rope quicker than anyone in the sport.

WEAKNESSES:

- Overreliance on his jump from the turnbuckle. Not only is the move predictable, it could cost him a severe knee or ankle injury.
- Egomania. Sooner or later Savage's massive ego will cause him to underestimate his opponent in a big match.
- Elizabeth. Jealousy over what is happening to her has been known to hamper Savage's concentration during a match.

OTHER COMMENTS: Played minor league baseball in the Cincinnati Reds and the Chicago White Sox organizations . . . Held the International Championship Wrestling title in 1978, beating his brother, Lanny Poffo, for the title . . . Managed by Jimmy Hart in the Mid-Southern area in 1984 and early '85.

OUTLOOK FOR '86: Early '86 is when Savage must place all his cards on the table. He's riding a tidal wave of momentum toward Hulk Hogan's WWF title. If he's unable to defeat Hogan by mid-year, it's likely he never will.

HACKSAW DUGGAN

HOME TOWN: Glens Falls, NY
HEIGHT: 6'3"
WEIGHT: 280
YEARS AS PRO: 7
RATING: No. 2 in Mid-South; No. 8 Most Popular

STRENGTHS:

- Perpetual motion. Duggan keeps a strong forward momentum in his matches; he never takes a backward step against his opponent.
- Cardiovascular training. His heartbeat has been measured to increase by less than 12 percent after a strenuous match.
- Fan support. Duggan's own enthusiasm is drawn in great part from the massive support of his fans.

WEAKNESSES:

- Technical knowledge. Duggan lacks the scientific skills to complement his natural strength.
- Lack of self-control in big matches. Tends to get disqualified too often in title opportunities.
- Eyesight. Duggan's vision may have been permanently affected by Skandor Akbar's fire-throwing attack in 1985.

OTHER COMMENTS: Played pro football for the Atlanta Falcons during the 1977 and '78 seasons . . . Helped into the pro wrestling ranks by Fritz Von Erich . . . His war against Akbar has raged out of control for nearly three years.

OUTLOOK FOR '86: Duggan was never the kind of man who needed a championship to ensure his self-worth. Nevertheless, now that Dick Slater holds the North American title, 1986 may be the year Duggan captures that prestigious belt.

STAN HANSEN

HOME TOWN: Borger, TX
HEIGHT: 6'3"
WEIGHT: 322
YEARS AS PRO: 11
RATING: AWA World champion; No. 5 in Top 10; No. 7 Most Hated

STRENGTHS:

- Deceptive scientific knowledge. Hansen's brawling reputation overshadows his actual ring smarts.
- Killer instinct. Hansen is not afraid to capitalize on an opponent's momentary weaknesses.
- Indimidation factor. Known as the man who broke Bruno Sammartino's neck, Hansen easily psychs out his opponent.

WEAKNESSES:

- Poor training habits. Hansen seldom visits the gym and tends to stick to a diet of chili and beer.
- Reckless abandon; the killer instinct out of control. Often gets disqualified simply because he likes to wrestle wildly.
- Too many title commitments. In addition to the AWA World title, Hansen holds two PWF titles, necessitating monthly trips to Japan.

OTHER COMMENTS: Captured the Pacific Wrestling Federation title from Shohei "Giant" Baba on July 30, 1985, in Fukuoka, Japan . . . Also holds the PWF tag team title with Ted DiBiase . . . One of the biggest box-office draws in Japan . . . Most Hated Wrestler in 1976.

OUTLOOK FOR '86: The first few months of the year will determine Hansen's place in wrestling history: Can he set himself alongside an AWA champ like Nick Bockwinkel, or will his reign collapse in a matter of a month or two? We'll see.

JERRY LAWLER

HOME TOWN: Memphis, TN
HEIGHT: 6'
WEIGHT: 234
YEARS AS PRO: 16
RATING: none

STRENGTHS:

- Peerless piledriver. Lawler's piledriver is arguably the best in the sport, and the source of much of his heralded reputation.
- Low center of gravity provides for good balance. It is hard for an opponent to knock Lawler off his feet.
- Fistdrop. This maneuver has been described as "being hit with the force of a fist of a 2,000 pound man."

WEAKNESSES:

- Emotional problems. Lawler's failure to win a world title in 1985 has led to grave self-doubts.
- Rarely leaves Tennessee. He apparently feels he's the sole policeman of Mid-Southern area.
- Accumulated career injuries have left their mark to the degree that he never wrestles pain-free anymore.

OTHER COMMENTS: Broke Elvis Presley's consecutive sellout record in the Mid-South Coliseum in Memphis . . . Took a year off in 1980 due to a broken leg . . . Gained national publicity by wrestling comedian/entertainer Andy Kaufman . . . An excellent artist . . . Hosts his own Memphis talk show on TV.

OUTLOOK FOR '86: 1986 will be a year of rebuilding and rededication for "The King." He will have to rebuild his self-confidence while rededicating himself to winning the world title he failed to capture in '85.

KRUSHER KHRUSHCHEV

HOME TOWN: Thief River Falls, MN
HEIGHT: 6'3"
WEIGHT: 303
YEARS AS PRO: 3
RATING: No. 3 in World Championship

STRENGTHS:

- Strength. Khrushchev has bench pressed upwards of 575 pounds, and can overpower most opponents.
- Versatility. Merges Russian training discipline with American catch-as-catch-can style.
- Variety of finishing maneuvers. Uses the cobra, the bearhug, the powerslam, and several varieties of backbreakers.

WEAKNESSES:

- Overdependence on partners. Khrushchev is comfortable with the Koloffs and would be tremendously hurt by a split.
- Identity crisis. Born an American, Khrushchev's personality is twisted from having adopted a Russian heritage.
- Slow. Has trouble moving his 303-pound frame around the ring. Easily outmatched in speed by many opponents.

OTHER COMMENTS: Won the vacant Mid-Atlantic title in a victory over Sam Houston at Starrcade '85 . . . Learned the cobra clutch from Ivan Koloff, who learned it from Don Kernodle, who learned it from Sgt. Slaughter.

OUTLOOK FOR '86: Khrushchev's Mid-Atlantic title could be the key to his career. If he is able to establish himself as a single, he will minimize the effect of a split with the Koloffs. Of course, a busy schedule of title defenses could cause the demise of the triumverate before the year's end.

LEX LUGAR

HOME TOWN: Chicago, IL
HEIGHT: 6'5"
WEIGHT: 280
YEARS AS PRO: 1½
RATING: No. 9 in NWA; No. 1 in Florida

STRENGTHS:

- Awesome natural power. Can bench press 540 pounds and squat press 835.
- Hiro Matsuda's training has given Lugar an attitude and sophistication beyond his mere 1½ years in the pro ranks.
- Youthful exuberance. Still new to the pro rings, Lugar has yet to become jaded or cynical about the sport.

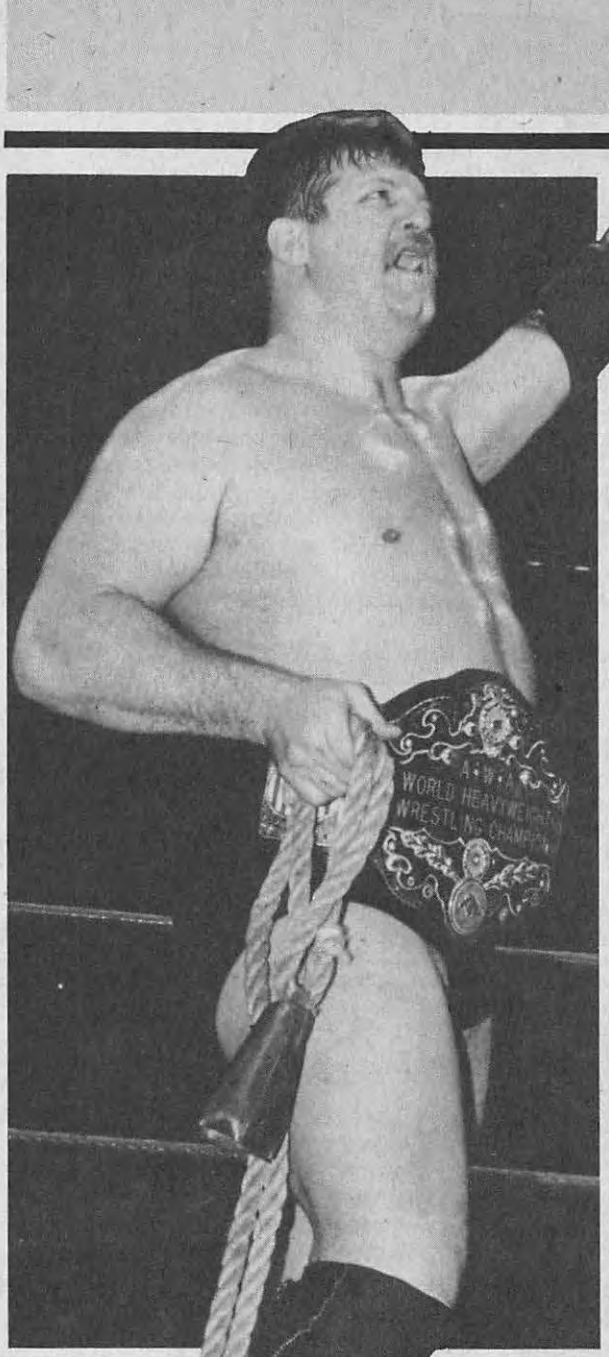
WEAKNESSES:

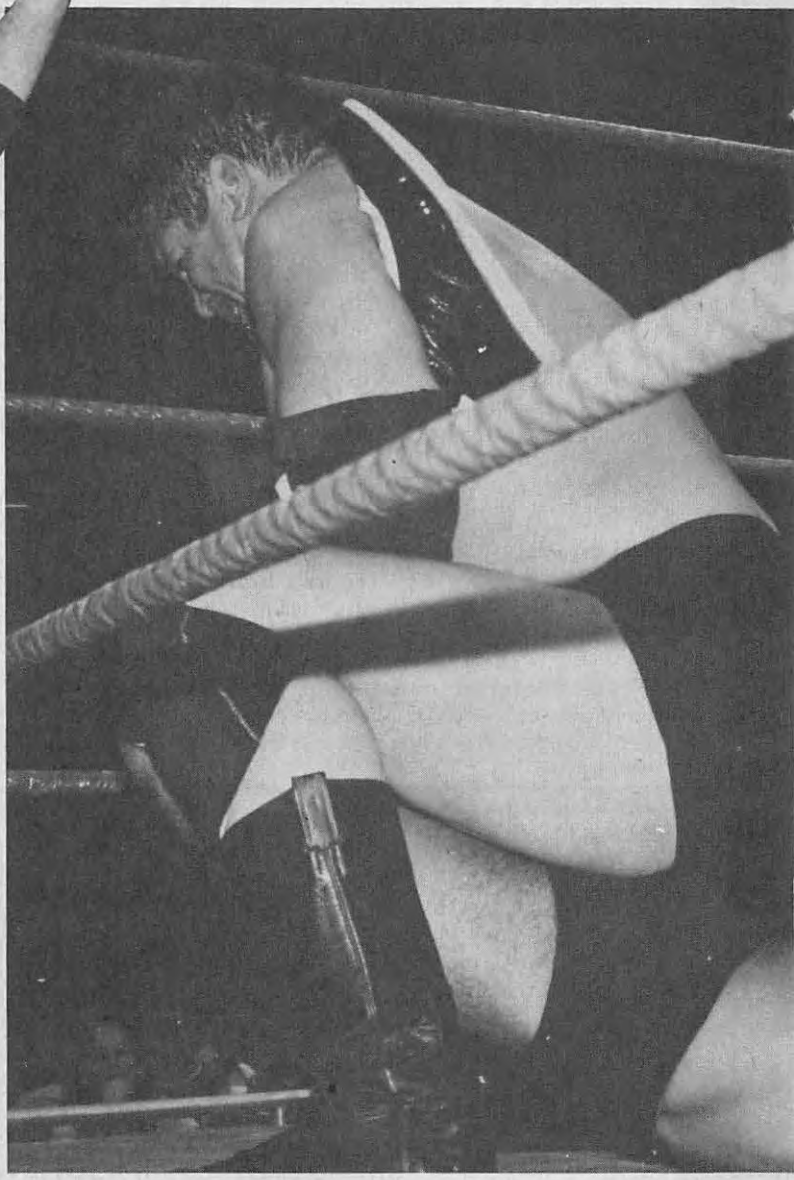
- Overconfidence. Feels he can easily achieve far more than he's capable of.
- Following Hiro Matsuda's philosophy, Lugar seems to be living out Hiro's dreams of greatness.
- Lack of opposition. Lugar is virtually untested against a wide variety of top-level competition.

OTHER COMMENTS: Uses two kinds of backbreaker as finishing moves . . . Boasts 30-inch thighs and 20-inch biceps . . . Remarkably strong, and seems to be getting stronger all the time . . . Captured the Southern title from Wahoo McDaniel on November 19, 1985.

OUTLOOK FOR '86: Lugar's reputation will grow as long as his list of opponents grows. His best alternative in '86 would be to defend his Southern title not only in Florida, but also in the World Championship area.

MASSACRE





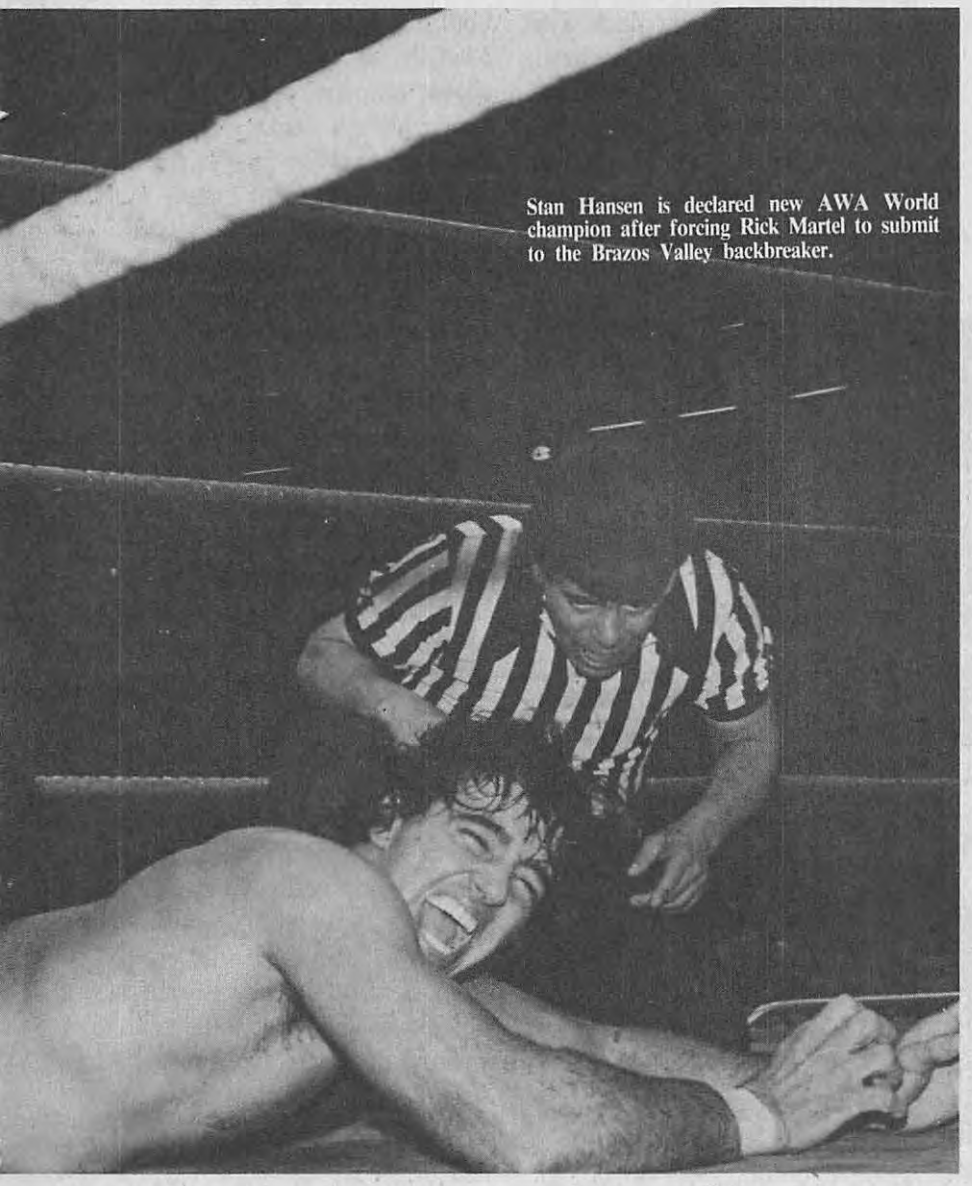
STAN HANSEN WORLD TITLE

WITH PRECISE BRUTALITY and fierce resolve, Stan Hansen tied a battered and hurt Rick Martel up in a Brazos Valley backbreaker and forced him to submit his AWA World heavyweight championship at the 14:03 mark on December 29. Martel had been in possession of the World title for 20 months. Hansen, an 11-year veteran, is a first-time world champion.

A crowd of over 10,000 people at New Jersey's Byrne Meadowlands Are-

Photos by Bill Apter & Paul Heyman

AT THE MEADOWLANDS



Stan Hansen is declared new AWA World champion after forcing Rick Martel to submit to the Brazos Valley backbreaker.

Stan Hansen was crowned AWA World champion after his belligerent display of aggression nearly crippled Rick Martel

na gaped in stupid wonder as Hansen beat Martel to every punch, anticipating the Canadian's moves with such prescience it seemed at times as if the challenger could read the champion's mind.

Hansen's dogged pursuit of Martel and the AWA belt began several months ago in Minnesota, where Hansen issued a gloomy warning to the champ, promising to beat him to within "a half-step from the grave. The only reason I won't kill the canuck," Hansen raved, "is that they might not give me the damn title then."

On this night, no one could deny Hansen the title. On a card dramatized by a bloodletting in almost every match, Hansen's powerful finishing maneuver provoked a bloodless scream of agony from Martel, a scream so gutteral and stark it forced many fathers to cringe, while they wiped away their children's tears.

Martel was never a force in this match. He limped into the ring, barely able to conceal a back injury obtained in a brawl against Hansen four days earlier on Christmas Day in St. Paul. In that match, Hansen was disqualified for repeatedly slamming Martel back-first into the steel ringpost outside the ring, where the champ crumpled into a crippled ball.

Covering the ring at the Meadowlands with the ferocity of a Pit Bull Terrier, Hansen drove Martel to abandon his usual scientific technique early on, while he divided his tactics between the scientific and the corrupt. With four minutes gone in the match, Hansen caught Martel in a devastating su-

WINS THE AWA FROM RICK MARTEL!

plex that shook the ring, and followed his advantage by planting four consecutive kicks to the small of Martel's back. He immediately repeated the suplex, and, although Martel survived this onslaught, the roles of hunter and prey were clearly established. Martel struggled to survive; Hansen hustled toward victory.

The man who captured the title from Jumbo Tsuruta over a year and a half ago, and had in that time survived the scientific wizardry of Bob Backlund, the carniverous assaults of Larry Zbyszko and Kamala, the seasoned tenacity of Nick Bockwinkel, and the psycho-hypnotic germ warfare of Michael Hayes and Jim Garvin would not relinquish his crown without a final, odds-defiant battle.

Laying prone to the mat, Martel used all his waning strength to take Hansen down to the canvas with a perfectly executed legdrag. He circled Hansen swiftly into a pulverizing armlock, threw the surprised challenger into the ropes, and knocked him back to the ground with a well-executed dropkick. Hansen appeared groggy, and as the crowd, with cause to cheer for the first time all match, rose to their feet, Martel snowed his challenger with a momentous flurry of forearms and right crosses.

Again he slung Hansen against the ropes and prepared his dropkick. This time, though, Hansen was prepared. He held on to the ropes while Martel flung his body vertically into the smokey air and landed with a sickly thud on to his weakened vertebrae. For a moment, an odd, timeless quiet gripped the arena. Then Hansen casually ambled over to the soon to be ex-champion and raised him above his head and hurled him down to the mat.

Hansen, whose scientific abilities are often overlooked, executes a stylish salto. Throughout the match in the Meadowlands, Hansen directed his attack against Martel's back, which he had seriously injured four days earlier in St. Paul.

Remarkably, Martel still had fight left in him. With 12 minutes gone in the match, Martel lifted the 322-pound Hansen over his head and banged him down to the canvas. The maneuver took its toll on Martel, though, as he limped to the ropes in obvious pain.

Hansen reacted instinctively. The Bad Man from Borger, Texas, pounced on Martel like a rabid squirrel. After consecutive punches to Martel's face, Hansen flung three disabling forearm smashes to Martel's back. Martel's legs bucked and buckled, but he refused to go down. He returned Hansen's shots with several of his own, but they were largely ineffectual.

At the 13:30 mark, Hansen brought both his meaty fists hurtling down on Martel's back. Martel's entire body shook, his pupils pirouetting indecently about his eye sockets. Hansen contemptuously threw him to the canvas, and with a victorious moan, wrapped him up into the medieval, rack-like horror of the Boston Crab, better known in Hansen's flowery dialect as the Brazos Valley backbreaker. The move by any name would be as painful.

Martel's choices were clear. Submit or face life in a wheelchair. The quality of courage that Martel exemplified the entire match gave way to inspired common sense. When the referee asked if he gave up, his reply, through tears of pain and pride, was *yes, yes, I give, I give.* A more bitter uncle was never said.

The champ is dead; long live the champion.

Hansen celebrated with a quarter keg of Meister Brau, which he chugged through gray teeth. Martel sang the loser's litany of pain, but steadfastly refused to blame the loss on his injured back. "Look, my friends, we've all had a good ride," he said to a roomful of tearful supporters. "I'll be back. I will win the title back. I promise you.

"My back is fine. I have no excuses. None." He filed out of the dressing room effusing the calm dignity that characterized his 20-month title reign.

With the belt already tucked away in his torn duffel bag, Hansen spent his first moments as champion spitting to the press. "You monkeys had me always written off as nothing but scruffy rulebendin' hell-farmer. I say this to all you—*ptoooie.*" Hansen slingshoted a firm wad of phlegm-coated ale at the battery of reporters. "Get outta here, all of you. Get the hell out. I hate you pandering lollipops. Get out."

Rick Martel to Stan Hansen. Sometimes the changing of the guard is the saddest thing imaginable. □

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- Chance of heart attack decreases

AFTER 48 HOURS
- Nerve endings start regrowing
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AFTER 72 HOURS
- Bronchial tubes relax, making breathing easier
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WITHIN 2 WEEKS TO 3 MONTHS
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- Walking becomes easier
- Lung function increases up to 30 percent

1 TO 9 MONTHS
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BETWEEN FALLS

(Continued from page 6)

NWA tag team champions Robert Gibson and Rick Morton have proven that determination and talent are more important than size.

team champions. Not many teams can make that claim, including the Warriors.

Ricky Morton and Robert Gibson have worked hard to get where they are. In winning the championship, they have proven that success in wrestling is not predicated on size alone. There is still room in this sport for men who possess speed, brains, and technical skills.

Whenever the Express wrestle in the Mid-Atlantic, the fan response is utterly phenomenal. I can't think of a more popular combination of wrestlers in the world. They will be an exciting part of the tag team scene for years to come and I want them to know that there are many fans who consider them the best team in the country.

VICKI MURDOCK
Burnsnille, NC

SOONER OR LATER

It's great to see Steve Williams receive some ink, even if he was miscast as the Most Improved Wrestler of the Year. As anyone

(Continued on page 50)

THIS MONTH IN...

The Wrestler

For the love of his valet/manager **ELIZABETH—RANDY SAVAGE** must beat **HULK HOGAN**!

The World Class fans are in for a rude awakening, because **RICK RUDE** may be the best wrestler in Texas

PLUS . . .

Wrestling executioner **LORD HUMONGOUS**: Behind the mask is the face of death! . . . **MAGNUM T.A.:** "My U.S. title will not fall into **NIKITA KOLOFF'S** hands!" . . . Q & A interview with **WENDI RICHTER** . . . **KEVIN VON ERICH** is in the Spotlight . . . **LEX LUGAR** claims he'll run **BARRY WINDHAM** back to the WWF

All this and much more . . .
in the April 1986 issue of
The Wrestler

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Starrcade's over, but the feud rages on! Can **DUSTY RHODES** and **RIC FLAIR** survive 1986?

Are **THE VON ERICHS** making cousin **LANCE** their fall guy?

PLUS . . .

The AWA's future is in **SCOTT HALL'S** hands . . . **ANDRE THE GIANT'S** battle plan: slay two giants to capture a weasel! . . . "Hotseat" interview with **BILL WATTS: "HULK HOGAN** couldn't last five minutes in a Mid-South match!" . . . **STAN HANSEN** and **RICK MARTEL** go "One on One"

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BETWEEN FALLS

(Continued from page 48)

The selection of Steve "Dr. Death" Williams as 1985's Most Improved Wrestler pleases Cheryl Tavella.

who has followed "Dr. Death's" career closely will tell you, Mr. Williams has *always* been a grappler of superior skills. It's not his fault if the magazines are just now getting wind of his accomplishments. If Williams ever decides to take his one-man assault crew on the road, every champion would be smart to lock their belts away in a vault. Now that his alma mater, Oklahoma, has been declared national champions, he might get the notion that he should be champion, too. I hope he does. Wrestling could use a champion of his courage and character.

CHERYL TAVELLA
Norman, OK

NOT THE PITS?

I find it hard to swallow your poll claiming Roddy Piper as the year's most hated grappler. In matches I have seen, he receives at least the fan support of his opponents. More often he is cheered while his opponent is roundly booed. Fans have come to appreciate Piper's no-nonsense approach to the ring. His biting wit and bodacious approach is a wel-

comed respite from the usual uneducated, ignorant, simpleminded, and churlish banter that wrestlers are known to spit.

Alas, people must always hate what they can't understand, they kill and slash at those who might elevate them from their bitter boredom. Piper will end his career worshipped and venerated, that I'm certain of. Fans will come to love his arrogance when they realize his spot in history. He is wrestling's only living legend. Roddy Piper rules. Without him, wrestling would be nothing but a lukewarm, tepid bore.

SANDRA CHUMSTER
Houston

Jim Cornette's selection as Manager of the Year baffles Kevin Joyner, who considers Cornette a wimp.

A CHRONIC WIMP

I don't know anyone who voted for Jim Cornette as Manager of the Year. The final tally of votes must be tainted. As long as everyone recognizes the extreme wimphood of this man, then not even an award as prestigious as *PWI's* Manager of the Year can repair his reputation. I wouldn't have voted for him for all the gold in Fort Knox.

KEVIN JOYNER
Olney, MD □

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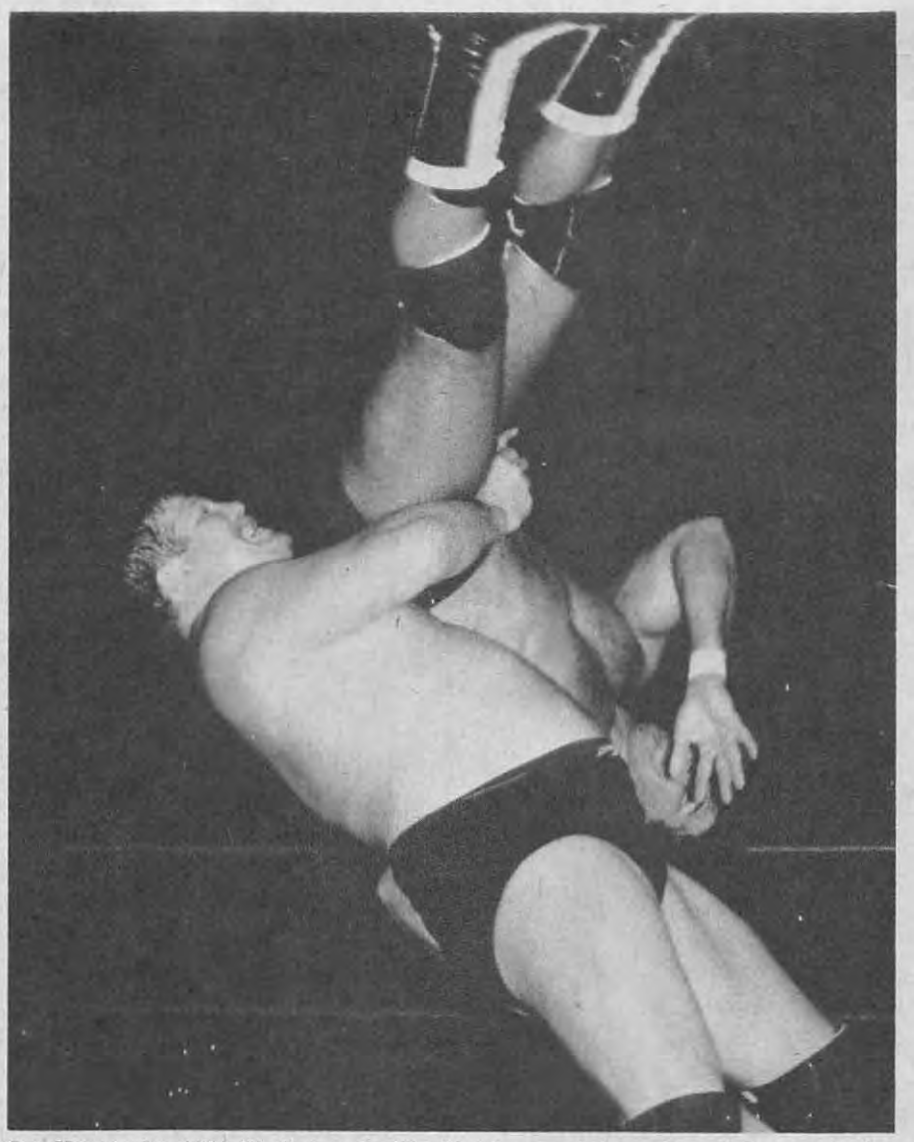
KING'S COURT

(Continued from page 10)



Stan Hansen takes AWA World champion Rick Martel over and down with a nicely executed salto. Repeated title challenges by Hansen eventually gave him the physical and pychological edge he needed to dethrone Martel.

self? You'll be around to beat him up again the next time.

"Finally, the scales are tipped. One night, you get in the ring and although you're still just a contender, you feel like the champion. And what's more, the champ knows what's happening. He knows it's over. Maybe he'll survive that night. Or even the time after. But it's coming to an end for him. You know it, the crowd knows it, he knows it."

Soon after he said this, Flair proved his theory by defeating Dusty Rhodes in Kansas City. It was the sixth time he had wrestled Dusty in three months, the 21st time overall in his career.

And Rick Martel fell to Stan Hansen in their 12th match in a three-month period. After the bout, Martel said he felt as if Hansen knew every move he would try before Martel himself even did. "He had his counter ready before I finished applying the hold," Martel said. "Over the past few weeks, wrestling Stan Hansen has become tougher and tougher."

The Hulk Hogan-Randy Savage wars continue. Match after match, night after night, Hogan barely holds on to his WWF title. And match after match, night after night, Hulk Hogan grows weaker while Randy Savage grows stronger. ☐

(Continued from page 8)

Hulk Hogan chops Randy Savage in the throat in an effort to separate him from the ropes and whip him across the ring during their first Madison Square Garden encounter. Many observers felt Hogan benefitted from an "unusual" count that night.

WWF title against **Randy Savage**, and the contest only proved to me that "The Macho Man" may well be the most significant challenge to Hogan's title since he defeated **The Iron Sheik** in the Garden over two years ago. And if you watched the tape of that match as closely as I did, you'll note that when Savage had Hogan in a pinning combination, he received the same 2½ count that **The Spider Lady** (a.k.a. **Fabulous Moolah**) received when she regained the World Women's belt from **Wendi Richter**. Was Richter the victim of a bad count or was Hogan very lucky to escape with his title intact? Maybe both.

The Fabulous Ones are headed to the Florida area to battle against **Kevin Sullivan** and his Satanic army there . . . **Austin Idol**, who is currently the co-holder of the Mid-Southern tag team title along with **Jerry Lawler**, will be wrestling in the World Class area . . . A decision has not yet been rendered by Mid-Southern officials regarding Idol and Lawler's status as Mid-Southern tag team champions, following Lawler's loss of the Mid-Southern title to **Bill Dundee** in a loser-leave-town match . . . **Bruiser Brody** is wrestling regularly in the Texas All-Star area.

Amidst controversy, **The Freebirds** have won the World Class six-man title from **Kerry** and **Kevin Von Erich** and **Brian Adidas**. As the referee sought to untangle Kevin Von Erich, Adidas, and **Michael Hayes** outside the ring, **Terry Gordy** snuck between the ropes and clothelined Kerry Von Erich, who was in the process of pinning **Buddy Roberts**. Gordy placed Roberts atop the semi-conscious Von Erich and politely informed referee **Rick Hazzard** of the situation. Hazzard returned his attention to the ring and counted out a pinfall victory for The Freebirds.

Percy Pringle is out for revenge against **The Missing Link** in the World Class area. Pringle, who now manages **The Great Kabuki**, was caught in the middle of an attack by the Link when Link attacked Pringle, Kabuki, **Scott Casey** and **Iceman Parsons**. The attack came during a Link and Kabuki vs. Casey and Parsons match, during which Kabuki decided to take a swipe at **Sunshine**, who was in Casey and Parsons' corner. Link attacked everyone in sight, then carried Sunshine off to the parking lot. Casey followed them to make sure Sunshine was all right, which she was. "He's okay," Sunshine said, "I'm able to communicate with him on a certain level, and he's going to be okay." Pringle disagrees. "When I'm through with him, he'll be far from okay," the Link's former manager said. "I know what the Link is capable of, and I know what his weaknesses are better than anyone

Percy Pringle no longer has control over The Missing Link. Link has seen the light of Sunshine.

else in the sport. The Link is yesterday's trash."

Are **The Road Warriors** splitting up? Yes and no. **Precious Paul Ellering** has divided The Legion of Doom to battle a few singles matches in the World Championship area. In two recent contests, **Hawk** scored a pinfall over **Ivan Koloff** while **Animal** battled **Black Bart** to a wild double-disqualification. "A greater emphasis on singles matches can only prove to add to the already astounding level of versatility enjoyed by professional wrestling's most efficient wrecking machine," Ellering told **PWI.** Is Ellering priming his Warriors for an assault on the sport's singles titles? "As **Andre Gide** so eloquently stated, 'To my mind, the possible and the future are one. I believe that all that is possible is striving to come into being; and all that can will be, if man helps.' All I will add is that The Legion of Doom is always striving."

That's all for now. See you at the matches! □

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DRESSING ROOM CONFIDENTIAL

(Continued from page 12)

and prepares to throw an elbow at Andre, but the Giant hears the crowd and senses what is about to happen. He rolls over and Abdullah hits Kamala. Andre gets up and squashes Abdullah. Paul Jones comes into the ring and Andre catches him with a giant foot, and gives him the squash. Andre then pins Abdullah and Kamala for the win.

Women's Championship Unification: Wendi Richter (61%) vs. Sherri Martel (submitted by Robert Mitchell): Even though Richter just lost her championship to Fabulous Moolah, she will probably get it back. I think she is capable of beating any world champion. I'm not selling AWA Women's champion Sherri Martel short; she will make Wendi work hard and maybe she will win. But I'll go with Wendi.

The Great Debate: Piper's Pit (57%) vs. Larry Zbyszko's Corner (submitted by Francis Ranu): Larry's opening statement was that "Piper's Pit" lacked the intelligence and seriousness of his show. Piper rebounded by saying that Larry's show is a cheap, stupid replica of his show, but that he didn't blame Larry for trying to copy such a great show. Before Larry could respond, Ace Orton came into the ring and hit Larry over the head with a cast. Piper then hit Zbyszko with a chair and Orton delivered several forearm smashes to the head. After about five minutes of punishment, Piper and Ace walked back to the dressing room with smiles on their faces, apparently pleased with their actions.

Special Return Grudge Match: Sgt. Slaughter (87%) vs. The Iron Sheik (submitted by Louis J. Gagliano). Both men have brought a friend with them. The Sarge is accompanied by Greg "Rambo" Gagne, while The Iron Sheik is with his partner, Nikolai Volkoff.

The match is quite physical and the pure hatred is indeed evident. At eight minutes into the match, Slaughter is caught between the ropes and the Iranian is booting him to the midsection. Once released from the ropes, Slaughter falls to the canvas holding his stomach. The Iron Sheik is laughing as he pounds the point of his special boots to Slaughter's head. The Sarge is busted open and bleeding bad. The Sheik rubs the blood into Slaughter's eyes, blinding him.

The Sheik then picks the Sarge up and throws him through the ropes, where Volkoff is waiting. Just before the Russian could slam Slaughter to the concrete, Gagne levels Volkoff with a right hand.

Gagne then takes off his shirt and wipes the blood from Slaughter's eyes. The Sheik indirectly aids the Marine by constantly trying to drag him back in, each time giving Slaughter a fresh 10 count. Gagne is allowed the time to apply direct pressure to Slaughter's wound to the point where the blood flow is stopped.

Once back in the ring, Slaughter becomes a one-man battalion. At the 25-minute mark, Slaughter applies the cobra clutch. In an attempt to save his partner, Volkoff enters the ring but is quickly dealt with by a Gagne dropkick. At 26:26, the Sheik is ruled unable to continue.

Next Month: Rock 'n' Wrestling Tag Team Special—The Fabulous Freebirds vs. The Rock 'n' Roll Express; Tag Team Spectacular—The Road Warriors vs. The Fabulous Freebirds; USA vs. Russia—Barry Windham & Mike Rotundo vs. Ivan & Nikita Koloff; The Main Event: World Title Round-Robin Tournament—Rick Martel vs. Ric Flair vs. Hulk Hogan. ☐

STEEL CAGE

(Continued from page 16)

We're all anonymous contributors to the advancement of wrestling science."

"Or wrestling postscience." I wasn't at all correcting him; I was hoping he'd elaborate on the origins of the word.

"Uh, yes, well, we are all scientists here. The founders of the institute coined the term 'postscientific' as a means of differentiating from 'scientific' wrestling. We are a progressive enterprise, and we intend to use the scientific wrestling knowledge of the past to guide us into the next century. But the future of wrestling is not grounded upon amateur principles alone, as you well know from your own observations as a correspondent. Certain individuals have elevated brawling to a science."

"Like The Road Warriors?" Dr. Duliba suddenly scowled at me. "There are two guidelines you must observe here, Mr. Schuermann," he said, anxiously tugging at his salt-and-pepper beard. "One, we *never* mention any wrestler's name under this roof. We have our own code names for those working with us, and that information is not privy to journalists. Two, take a mask. Any mask."

We had stopped in a reception area, and Dr. Duliba pointed me toward an enormous bin of freshly laundered masks. The ideal Christmas gift! I took my time sorting through a beautiful menagerie of designs. My choice was light tan, with red trim and a black pair of flexed biceps surrounding the eye apertures.

"Come now," the doctor beckoned. "I promised you a look at one of our projects."

He led me into a large, terribly bright, antiseptic-smelling room. There were 15 men and women there. Five of them wore lab coats and masks and busied themselves with dials and clipboards. Nine of them, all husky males, wore wrestling garb—tights and boots, but amazingly enough no masks. One, however, had a veritable cat's cradle of wires attached to his skull and connected to lab equipment. The biggest man in the room was a masked wrestler, who paced up and down in a miniature (10x10) squared circle.

They were measuring the relative power of these maneuvers: the traditional piledriver, the reverse piledriver, and the variation on the traditional piledriver in which the wrestler jumps a little to add force to the blow rather than just standing and dropping. Each of the lab subjects was piledriven to stylistic perfection in all three methods by the masked man, who seemed to relish his labor but took subtle care to avoid serious injury. The concussive force of each piledriver was tested electronically.

As it turns out, force of impact was appreciably enhanced when the masked man jumped before dropping the subjects on their heads. Concussion was considerably weaker when the masked man remained stationary before delivering the piledriver. The difference was statistically significant. Less conclusive were the results of the reverse piledriver tests; its force ranked slightly below the "jumping" piledriver, but the measures varied too widely between subjects to mean much of anything. "The reverse piledriver remains an enigma," concluded Dr. Duliba.

Just how will this information be used? If this was any other PSI experiment—that is, unreported in a national magazine—it would be quietly leaked out, through the "grapevine" of prestigious wrestlers, managers, and promoters. Therein lies the emphasis on secrecy. "We cannot allow anyone to monopolize our findings," Dr. Duliba told me. "The wrong intelligence could permanently upset the balance of power in wrestling. Certain unsavory elements have, yes, threatened us physically in the past. This is a dangerous business, but every blackmailer has come to learn that we have many more friends than enemies.

"Yet there is nothing sinister about the Postscientific Institute. We exist to benefit wrestling with our research, and thusly benefit mankind." □

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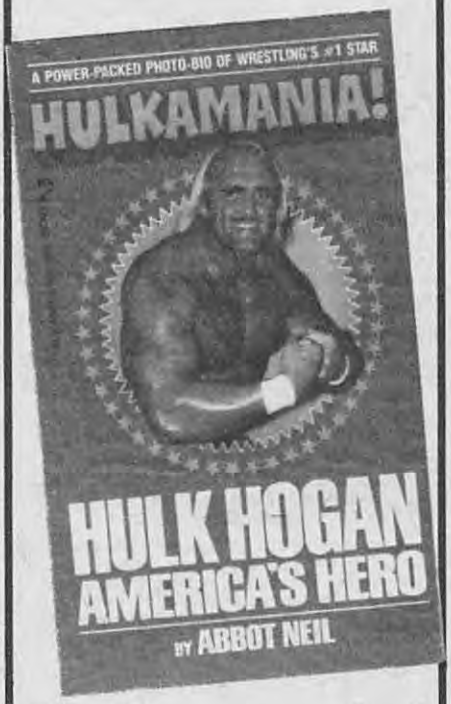

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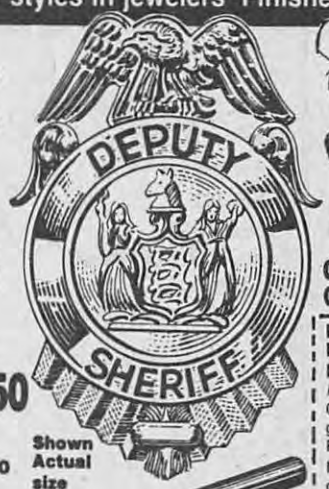

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PRESS CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 31)

the right way. Take Martel last month. He could have reached the rope to break Hansen's hold. He might have kept his title, but he would have lost all self-respect.

ELLNER: I think Martel is an idiot. A champion's first duty is to retain his title. If Martel was too proud to grab the rope, then he is stupider than I thought. The truth is that Stan Hansen a better wrestler.

APTER: Kerry, tell us about 1985. Between Mike's illness and the appearance of Lance, there was certainly a heckuva lot of activity in Von Erich land.

VON ERICH: **There was, Bill, there really was. As you know, Mike's illness left the entire family drained. The whole experience was terrifying, like a nightmare that wouldn't end. As soon as that ordeal was over, Lance came over from Portland. We expected, we welcomed, reaction, but we never anticipated the groundswell it became. Man! Is Lance something else or what? The question everyone asks Kevin and Mike and myself is, are we jealous? That always strikes us as being funny. We've all enjoyed success. Nothing has made us happier than Lance's accomplishments. Our main concern was that Lance would feel comfortable and fit in. It's great to have him here.**

SCHUERMANN: Yet Lance and Rick Rude seem to have replaced you as Texas' biggest sex symbol. Any comment?

VON ERICH: **I still seem to get my share of cards and letters. I never considered myself a symbol of any sort. I just go out and do my job. Lance feels the same way. If we have any influence over people, we hope it's in a positive vein. Rick Rude needs to exploit his fans to satisfy his own ego. He's a dangerous role model for young girls and boys.**

ELLNER: 1985 was the year that your brother Kevin surpassed you in the ratings and received several title shots against Ric Flair. Did that have any effect on you?

Taking advantage of Gino Hernandez's predicament, Von Erich tries to rip off his rival's mask.

VON ERICH: If I listen to you guys, I might as well retire. The skinny kid says I lost all my fans to my cousin, and the big mouth says my brother is the best wrestler in the family. The media has been trying to spark controversy within our family ever since we stepped foot in the ring. You'd think they'd have learned something by now.

SHUERMANN: I don't think Mr. Ellner asked you to air your paranoia about the free press. He asked you a fair question about Kevin Von Erich receiving more title shots than you. Would you mind answering?

VON ERICH: I've always said that Kevin has as much natural talent as anyone in wrestling. If I can't win the NWA title, then there is no one I'd want to win it more than my either of my brothers.

Adams tries to save himself from being hung by Kerry with the microphone cord.

ELLNER: What about Lance, who wrestled Ric Flair to a grueling 45-minute draw not too long ago?

VON ERICH: I don't think Lance has the experience to beat Flair just yet. But if he did, I would be the first to congratulate him.

APTER: What's the latest in the family feud against Gino Hernandez and Chris Adams? And what about The Freebirds? Where do they fit into the overall picture?

VON ERICH: As usual, Hernandez and Adams seem to exist just to make life miserable for the Von Erichs. They have no desire to enhance their skills, no desire to move on to other things. They've become obsessed with the idea of permanently injuring one of our family. So, too, with the Freebirds. Both teams would be better off concentrating on their own careers, rather than trying to end ours. Hernandez and Adams should feel lucky that they've only lost their hair so far. It could have been much worse.

APTER: What's your feelings on Sunshine's new relationship with The Missing Link?

ELLNER: And do you think the rumors of their romance are true?

VON ERICH: Sunshine is a different breed, although there's no way the Link and her are romantically connected. She responds to a challenge. That's why she tried to change Hercules Hernandez and Kabuki, and that's why she's associated with the Link. We support her whenever we can. She's a friend of the family, although sometimes even we scratch our heads at what she tries to do.

APTER: What's in store for Kerry Von Erich in 1986?

VON ERICH: I want Flair. I want to beat him. I also want to continue to wrestle regular tag teams with Kevin and try to get the World Class tag team title from Adams and Hernandez. And I look forward to a healthy year for my family. That's most important to me. □

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ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from page 18)

fans at ringside were somewhat less than vocal in their support of T.A., but at the time I was merely thankful they weren't making too much noise.

When Ric Flair came out to meet Ronnie Garvin, however, I was startled to no end. At first, I imagined a fire may have ignited, and some members of the studio audience were screaming in panic. They were screaming for Flair, the most "hated" man in wrestling. Ronnie Garvin received more than his share of cheers, believe me. But the sheer presence of Flair electrified the room as surely as if he had scissored the videocam wires.

It was an exceptional match between two of the finest warriors in wrestling. If you have cable, you may have seen it, and if you did, you also saw how Flair and the Andersons ganged up on Dusty Rhodes *again* in the bout's aftermath, attempting to re-injure his leg. That may have shocked you—I half expected it—but what *did* shock me was the fan response in the studio. An alarming number of fans were openly cheering Flair as he pounced on Rhodes' tender ankle.

I talked to my friend Cindy about it afterward. She had been one of Flair's most vocal supporters. "How can you cheer that man for what he was doing to Dusty? And why did so many *other* fans cheer?"

She lit up and blew the smoke right in the direction of my hair. She knows how much I hate the smell of smoke in my hair, and I didn't have time for an herbal shampoo before my flight back to New York. I would have slapped her full in her pudgy little face, but I wanted answers from one of my insider spies.

(Continued on page 60)

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ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from page 58)

"Wake up and smell the coffee, Liz. I like Dusty, you know that, but he had no business trying to save Ric from the Russians anyway. He should have known Flair hated him already, but he wanted to be a hero. If Dusty keeps on buttin' in on Nature Boy's title matches, it's his own fault. He should treat the World champion with proper respect!"

"Respect!" I sputtered. "After what he's . . ."

"Ric Flair is the greatest champion in wrestling history," Lisa G., a freelance writer, snapped. "And the fans feel the same way. *PWI* is screwed for rating Flair at the top of the Most Hated list. How many boos did you hear today?"

"It's true," affirmed Elinor B., a commercial artist who has worked the galleries with Cindy in the past. "Even the fans who cheered Ronnie Garvin didn't stoop to giving Ric any abuse. They *know* what a magnificent champion he is, and how he stands for wrestling at its finest."

"No serious wrestling fan will ever boo Ric Flair," Cindy chimed in. "You were there at The Omni (at their Christmas show, which featured a Flair-Rhodes main event). Dusty's still one of the most popular guys in wrestling, sure, but the crowd reaction was mixed."

"Listen, Liz, you're always bugging us for inside information," Lisa said. "Well, we have a message for whoever writes up the ratings at *PWI*. Don't let a few homicidal letters fool you. Dusty Rhodes may be the most popular wrestler around here, but Slick Ric is *at least* a close second. *At least.*"

"Ahead of Magnum T.A., no doubt," Cindy said. "He's got his fans, but he's earned nowhere near the respect our champion has. After all, T.A.'s a sex symbol who may turn out to be a flash in the pan. And his macho trip can't attract any woman with half a brain. It even turns off a lot of male fans who'd appreciate his talents otherwise. Ric Flair, on the other hand, is the kind of wrestler we'd want our grandchildren to see."

Well, there it is, from three infallibly reliable sources. These are women who travel the circuit, who see a minimum of three to four cards a week. Are we indeed mistaken about Ric Flair's relationship with the fans? Do the fans embrace Flair's unqualified greatness and automatically accept, or choose to ignore, his unsavory ring tactics and decadent lifestyle?

One thing is certain. I will continue to research this issue, and bring my findings to the *PWI* ratings committee. ☐

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TOP ROPE

(Continued from page 20)

There are many theories why the WWF is hiding the fact that Randy Savage and Lanny Poffo are brothers. It seems idiotic to try to cover up information that most people already know.

Miss Rubican,

The WWF has done some silly things, and while I don't think this one tops all, it does enhance their pickled-herring image. Savage and Poffo have always maintained different profiles in wrestling and their differences have been accentuated by the fact they are brothers. For the WWF to deny what is common knowledge to most wrestling fans casts their sad hapless promotion further adrift from the rest of the wrestling world. Why do they do it? Savage is on such a roll at the moment that they might not want him distracted by a brother who abhors everything the "Macho Man" stands for. At least that's the most reasonable explanation I can think of.

Dear Mr. Ellner,

What do you think is the biggest injustice in wrestling today? How would you correct it?

NICK SCHARR
Laguna Beach, CA

Dear Mr. Scharr,

Shakespeare wrote it about the legal profession and I borrow his phrase in reply: Kill the referees. Wrestling referees are the most inconsistent, inept, tepid-brained group of professionals in athletics. With the possible exception of Dick Woherle, there is not a single referee who I would call responsible. They routinely cower under pressure. To them the rulebook might well be an

Aside from Dick Woherle (pictured), wrestling referees do little more than take up space in the ring.

ancient Sumerian hieroglyphic. This is evident in the never-ending stream of match controversies that have become the norm in wrestling today. On a 10-match card, at least half end in dispute. Solutions? Of course there are, but it would require the Scrooges that run wrestling to get up off their pigskins and fund a referee school. And we have a better chance of Gilberto Roman officiating a fair match than of that happening. □

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BRENDAN BYRNE ARENA (East Rutherford, NJ): **Stan Hansen** won the AWA World championship from **Rick Martel** . . . **Ric Flair** defeated **Dusty Rhodes** by disqualification . . . **The Road Warriors** defeated **Ivan Koloff & Krusher Khrushchev** . . . **Magnum T.A.** beat **Tully Blanchard** . . . **Sgt. Slaughter** defeated **Boris Zukhov & Chris Markoff** in a handicap Russian death match . . . **Carlos Colon** defeated **Konga the Barbarian** . . . **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** defeated **The Irwin Brothers** . . . **Sherri Martel** defeated **Debbie Combs** . . . **Buddy Roberts** defeated **Paul Ellering** by disqualification . . . **Little Tokyo** beat **Cowboy Lange.**

—Leslie Li

MADISON SQUARE GARDEN (New York): **Randy Savage** defeated **Hulk Hogan** via countout . . . **Greg Valentine & Brutus Beefcake** defeated **Uncle Elmer & Hillbilly Jim** . . . **The Haiti Kid** pinned **Butch Cassidy** . . . **Big John Studd** pinned **Tony Atlas** . . . **Jim Brunzell** pinned **Brett Hart** . . . **Adrian Adonis** pinned **Lanny Poffo** . . . **Hercules Hernandez** defeated **Jose Luis Rivera** via submission . . . **Brian Blair** and **Jim Neidhardt** battled to a time-limit draw . . . **S.D. Jones** pinned **Ron Shaw.**

—Alan Spigelman

THE OMNI (Atlanta): **Ric Flair** defeated **Dusty Rhodes** . . . **Magnum T.A.** beat **Tully Blanchard** by disqualification . . . **Ole & Arn Anderson** were disqualified against **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** . . . **Nikita Koloff** pinned **The Italian Stallion** . . . **Superstar Billy Graham & Jimmy Valiant** defeated **Konga the Barbarian & Black Bart** . . . **Krusher Khrushchev** drew with **Sam Houston** . . . **Manny Fernandez** defeated **Thunderfoot.**

—Emmy Yates

BALTIMORE CIVIC CENTER (Baltimore): **Ric Flair** defeated **Ronnie Garvin** . . . **Rick Martel** defeated **Stan Hansen** by disqualification . . . **The Road Warriors** defeated **Michael Hayes & Buddy Roberts** . . . **Superstar Graham** beat **Konga the Barbarian** in an arm-wrestling contest for $10,000, and in their regular match by disqualification . . . **Ole & Arn Anderson** defeated **Wahoo McDaniel & Baron Von Raschke** . . . **Ron Bass** bested **J.J. Dillon** . . . **Sherri Martel** defeated **Debbi Combs.**

—Lawrence McMillan

SAM HOUSTON COLISEUM (Houston): **Mad Dog Buzz Sawyer** defeated **Hacksaw Jim Duggan** in a dog collar match . . . **Killer Brooks** defeated **Terry Jackson** . . . **The Fabulous Ones** beat **Chavo & Hector Guerrero** . . . **Jerry Lawler** defeated **Masked Superstar** by disqualification . . . **Rick Gibson** defeated **Rob Ricksteiner** . . . **Terry Taylor** beat **Steve Williams** . . . **J.R. Hogg** defeated **Tommy Wright.**

—Eric Brooks

NASSAU COLISEUM (Uniondale, NY): **Hulk Hogan & Tito Santana** defeated **Randy Savage & Jesse Ventura** . . . **Brutus Beefcake** beat **Mike Rotundo** . . . **Greg Valentine** defeated **Mr. Wrestling II** . . . **Hercules Hernandez** defeated **Scott McGhee** . . . **King Tonga** defeated **Moondog Spot** . . . **Cousin Junior** defeated **Terry Gibbs** . . . **Dan Spivey** beat **Adrian Adonis** by disqualification . . . **Cpl. Kirschner** pinned **Les Thornton** . . . **Steve Lombardi** defeated **Paul Roma** . . . **Gino Garabello** defeated **Jim Powers.**

—J.P. Caputo

MET CENTER (Bloomington, MN): **King Kong Bundy** defeated **Hulk Hogan** by countout . . . **Nikolai Volkoff** defeated **Cpl. Kirschner** . . . **Davey Boy Smith** pinned **Jim Neidhardt** . . . **Brett Hart** defeated **The Dynamite Kid** . . . **Magnificent Muraco** defeated **Rick Steamboat** by countout . . . **Jesse Ventura** pinned **Tony Atlas** . . . **Judy Martin** defeated **Candi Perdeau** . . . **Mad Dog Vachon** beat **Moondog Spot** . . . **Jim Brunzell** defeated **Steve Lombardi.**

—Tony Czech

JACKSONVILLE COLISEUM (Jacksonville, FL): **Wahoo McDaniel** captured top prize in the $20,000, 14-man, two-ring bunkhouse battle royal . . . **Blackjack Mulligan** defeated **Kevin Sullivan** . . . **Wahoo McDaniel, Mike Graham, Barry & Kendall Windham** defeated **The Purple Haze, Maha Singh, Ron Slinker, & Lex Lugar** . . . **Tyree Pride & The Cuban Assassin** wrestled to a draw . . . **Hector Guerrero** defeated **Cocoa Samoa** . . . **Frank Lane** defeated **Prince Iaukea.**

—Mary Robinson

RICHFIELD COLISEUM (Richfield, OH): **Randy Savage** defeated **Hulk Hogan** by countout . . . **Tito Santana** defeated **Cowboy Bob Orton** . . . **The British Bulldogs** defeated **Greg Valentine & Brutus Beefcake** by disqualification . . . **Adrian Adonis** defeated **Scott McGhee** . . . **Cousin Luke** defeated **Moondog Spot** . . . **Dan Spivey** defeated **Barry O** . . . **Ivan Putski** beat **Iron Mike Sharpe.**

—Craig Selka

THE AUDITORIUM (West Palm Beach, FL): **Junkyard Dog** defeated **Terry Funk** . . . **Linda Gonzalez** defeated **Judy Martin** . . . **The Iron Sheik** defeated **George Steele** by disqualification . . . **Cowboy Bob Orton** defeated **Tito Santana** by disqualification . . . **Hercules Hernandez** defeated **Scott McGhee** . . . **B. Brian Blair** defeated **Tiger Chung Lee** . . . **Cousin Junior** defeated **Barry O.**

—Gregg Mock

SAN DIEGO SPORTS ARENA (San Diego, CA): **Hillbilly Jim** defeated **Big John Studd** by disqualification . . . **Tito Santana** defeated **Randy Savage** by disqualification . . . **Brutus Beefcake & Greg Valentine** beat **Ivan Putski & Mike Rotundo** . . . **John Valiant** beat **Jack Armstrong** . . . **Pedro Morales** defeated **Matt Borne** . . . **Mike Sharpe** beat **Steve Gatorwolf.**

—Matt Orozco

THE SPECTRUM (Philadelphia): **Andre the Giant** defeated **King Kong Bundy** by disqualification . . . **Rick Steamboat & Tito Santana** defeated **Magnificent Muraco & Mr. Fuji** . . . **Hillbilly Jim** beat **Big John Studd** . . . **Brett Hart & Jim Neidhardt** defeated **Uncle Elmer & Cousin Junior** . . . **Hercules Hernandez** defeated **Jose Luis Rivera** . . . **Ron Shaw** beat **David Sammartino** . . . **Cpl. Kirschner** defeated **Barry O** . . . **King Tonga** defeated **Moondog Spot.**

—Bobby Koenig

BROOME COUNTY ARENA (Johnson City, NY): **Andre the Giant** defeated **King Kong Bundy** by disqualification . . . **Paul Roma** defeated **A.J. Petrucci** . . . **S.D. Jones** beat **Rene Goulet** . . . **Tony Atlas** defeated **Barry O** . . . **B. Brian Blair & Jim Brunzell** beat **Brett Hart & Jim Neidhardt** . . . **George Scottland** defeated **Moondog Spot** by disqualification.

—David Sryanak

REUNION ARENA (Dallas): **Kerry, Kevin, & Lance Von Erich** defeated **The Freebirds** . . . The chain match between **Bruiser Brody** and **One Man Gang** ended in a double-disqualification . . . **Brian Adidas & Iceman Parsons** defeated **The Grappler & Kabuki** . . . **Fujinami** defeated **Masked Demon** . . . **Antonio Inoki** defeated **Steve Williams** . . . **Lance Von Erich** beat **Rick Rude** by disqualification . . . **Terry Gordy & Buddy Roberts** defeated **Mark Youngblood & David Peterson** . . . **Chris Adams & Gino Hernandez** defeated **The Cosmic Cowboys (Kerry & Kevin Von Erich)** by disqualification . . . **The Missing Link** defeated **Jack Victory.**

—Jerry Johnson

RECAP: Big upset in the AWA as **Stan Hansen** takes the World title from an injured **Rick Martel** . . . Will **Hulk Hogan** be the next World champion to go down? The once invincible Hulkster suffered more losses this month than he did in any six-month period in 1985 . . . It seems that all the calls are going **Ric Flair's** way in his battles with **Dusty Rhodes** . . . **Randy Savage**, Hogan's number one challenger, continues to impress and may be on the verge of pulling off the upset of the year: a title defeat of Hogan . . . **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** are at the top of their game now. □

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July 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Ladd, Valiant, Brower.
August 1979/Stories include: Flair, Garvin, Race, Sammartino.
September 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Mascaras, Strongbow, Garvin.
October 1979/Stories include: Rich, Rhodes, Backlund, Putski.
November 1979/Stories include: Snuka, Heenan, Race, Backlund.
February 1980/Stories include: Patera, Snuka, Santana, Albano.
March 1980/Stories include: Flair, Rich, Funk, Duncum.
April 1980/Stories include: Hogan, Rich, Backlund, Mascaras.
May 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Bockwinkel.
June 1980/Stories include: Putski, Andre, Hernandez, Keirn.
July 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Von Erich, Superstar, Blassie.
August 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Wrestling II, Baker, Koloff.
September 1980/Stories include: Mascaras, Rhodes, Ladd, Iron Sheik.
November 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Putski, Bockwinkel, Koloff.
January 1981/Stories include: Race, Snuka, Morales, Slater.
February 1981/Stories include: Backlund, DiBiase, Bravo, Anderson.
April 1981/Stories include: Albano, Sammartino Jr., Race, McGraw.
May 1981/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Von Erich, Backlund, Santana.
June 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Hansen, Piper, Gagne.
September 1981/Stories include: Patera, Koloff, Khan, Junkyard Dog.
January 1982/Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Race, Humperdink.
February 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Flair, Steamboat, Rhodes.
March 1982/Stories include: Rich, Backlund, Idol, Spoiler.
April 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Andre, Von Erich, Piper.
May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Hogan, Von Erich.
June 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Von Erich, Slaughter, Morales.
July 1982/Stories include: Hogan, Rhodes, Steamboat, Adonis.
August 1982/Stories include: Andre, Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Backlund.
September 1982/Stories include: Atlas, Piper, Lawler, Brody.

OCTOBER 1985

October 1982/Stories include: Rich, Andre, Piper, Dillon.
November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Von Erich, Slaughter.
December 1982/Stories include: Mulligan, Rich, Lawler, Grand Wizard.
February 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.
March 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Graham, Johnson, Funk.
April 1983/Stories include: Snuka, Patera, Kabuki, Rich.
May 1983/Stories include: Rich, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat.
June 1983/Stories include: Studd, Garvin, Rogers, Orton.
July 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Freebirds, Rhodes, Youngblood.
August 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Garvin, Sullivan, Lawler.
September 1983/Stories include: Zbyszko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.
October 1983/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Junkyard Dog, Rhodes.
November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.
December 1983/Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors.
January 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Rich, Superstar, Piper.
February 1984/Stories include: Abdullah, Sawyers, Valiant, Von Erich.
March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.
April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.
May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.
June 1984/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.
July 1984/Stories include: Valiant, Flair, Martel, Wrestling II.
August 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.
September 1984/Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.
October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.
November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.
December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.
January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.
February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.
March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.
April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.
May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.
June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera.
July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.
August 1985/Stories include: Wrestlemania, Zbyszko vs. The Tonga Kid.
September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.
October 1985/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.
November 1985/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.
December 1985/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.
January 1986/Stories include: Steamboat, Mike Von Erich, The Road Warriors
February 1986/Stories include: Rock 'n' Roll Express, The Road Warriors, Mulligan & Windham

INSIDE WRESTLING

☐ JULY 74	☐ OCT 77	☐ APR 80	☐ SEPT 82	☐ JULY 84
☐ AUG 74	☐ NOV 77	☐ MAY 80	☐ OCT 82	☐ AUG 84
☐ SEPT 74	☐ DEC 77	☐ JUNE 80	☐ NOV 82	☐ SEPT 84
☐ NOV 74	☐ FEB 78	☐ JULY 80	☐ DEC 82	☐ OCT 84
☐ JUNE 75	☐ APR 78	☐ AUG 80	☐ FEB 83	☐ NOV 84
☐ AUG 75	☐ AUG 78	☐ SEPT 80	☐ MAR 83	☐ DEC 84
☐ SEPT 75	☐ OCT 78	☐ NOV 80	☐ APR 83	☐ JAN 85
☐ FEB 76	☐ NOV 78	☐ JAN 81	☐ MAY 83	☐ FEB 85
☐ MAR 76	☐ DEC 78	☐ FEB 81	☐ JUNE 83	☐ MAR 85
☐ APR 76	☐ JAN 79	☐ APR 81	☐ JULY 83	☐ APR 85
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☐ OCT 76	☐ JUNE 79	☐ JAN 82	☐ NOV 83	☐ AUG 85
☐ NOV 76	☐ JULY 79	☐ FEB 82	☐ DEC 83	☐ SEPT 85
☐ DEC 76	☐ AUG 79	☐ MAR 82	☐ JAN 84	☐ OCT 85
☐ JAN 77	☐ SEPT 79	☐ APR 82	☐ FEB 84	☐ NOV 85
☐ FEB 77	☐ OCT 79	☐ MAY 82	☐ MAR 84	☐ DEC 85
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☐ AUG 77	☐ FEB 80	☐ JULY 82	☐ MAY 84	☐ FEB 86
☐ SEPT 77	☐ MAR 80	☐ AUG 82	☐ JUNE 84	

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THE Wrestler

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February 1975/Stories include: Andre, Strongbow, Brisco, Sheik,

June 1975/Stories include: Andre, Muraco, Funk, Lawler.

July 1975/Stories include: Valentine, Sammartino, Race, Rhodes.

August 1975/Stories include: Sammartino, Patterson, Stasiak, Rivera.

December 1975/Stories include: Mascaras, Rhodes, McDaniel, Blackjacks.

January 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Putski, Wrestling II, Rhodes.

February 1976/Stories include: Andre, Sammartino, Rhodes, Valentine.

July 1976/Stories include: Andre, Wrestling II, Inoki, Von Erich.

November 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Valentine, Mosca.

December 1976/Stories include: Von Erich, Mulligan, Brody, Funk.

January 1977/Stories include: Brody, Andre, Wrestling II, Mascaras.

February 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Jones, Funk, Von Raschke.

April 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Funk, Flair, Bockwinkel.

May 1977/Stories include: Mascaras, Valiants, Andersons, Sammartino.

June 1977/Stories include: Patera, Putski, Hernandez, McDaniel.

July 1977/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Rocca, Mascaras.

October 1977/Stories include: Rhodes, Sammartino, Flair, Snuka.

November 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Slater, Mascaras, Snuka.

September 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Grahams, Andre, Mascaras.

October 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Backlund, McDaniel, Race.

November 1978/Stories include: Flair, Andre, Ladd, Graham.

December 1978/Stories include: Brisco, Mulligan, Andre, Blanchard.

February 1979/Stories include: Ladd, Flair, Idol, Heenan.

AUGUST 1985

May 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Brody, Valiants, Race.

July 1979/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Sammartino, Andre.

August 1979/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Patera, Stevens, Superstar.

October 1979/Stories include: Flair, Valentine, Santana, Muraco.

December 1979/Stories include: Andre, Graham, Rhodes, Mascaras.

January 1980/Stories include: Race, Backlund, Snuka, Brisco.

February 1980/Stories include: Andre, Flair, DiBiase, Superstar.

March 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Andre.

April 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, DiBiase, Youngblood, Wrestling II.

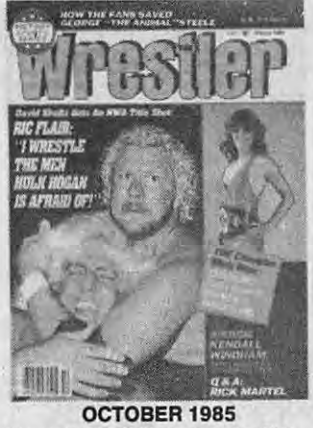
May 1980/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Bockwinkel, Patera.

June 1980/Stories include: Backlund, Abdullah, Brisco, Flair.

August 1980/Stories include: Valentine, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Albano.

September 1980/Stories include: Ladd, Patera, Steamboat, Gagne.

October 1980/Stories include: Patera, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Morales.



OCTOBER 1985

November 1980/Stories include: Rich, Hogan, Snuka, Super Destroyers.

January 1981/Stories include: Valentine, Rhodes, Patera, Von Erich.

February 1981/Stories include: Zbyszko, Patera, Iron Sheik, Wrestling II.

March 1981/Stories include: Rich, Samoans, Blassie, Wrestling II.

May 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, DiBiase, Moondogs.

June 1981/Stories include: Sammartino, Piper, Rich, Martel.

July 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Flair, Atlas.

August 1981/Stories include: DiBiase, Slaughter, Martel, Idol.

October 1981/Stories include: Funks, Rhodes, Race, Sullivan.

December 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Steele, Race, Hogan.

January 1982/Stories include: Rich, Steamboat, Sullivan, Sammartino.

March 1982/Stories include: Slaughter, Albano, Flair, Race.

April 1982/Stories include: Brisco, Armstrongs, Valentine, Santana.

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Von Erich, Graham, Rich.

June 1982/Stories include: Steamboat, Reed, Albano, Piper.

July 1982/Stories include: Rich, Sawyer, Flair, Steamboat.

August 1982/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Mulligans, Piper.

September 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, Armstrong, Blair.

October 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rhodes, Santana, Piper.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Piper, Blair.

December 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rich, Kamala, Junkyard Dog.

January 1983/Stories include: Putski, Muraco, Windham, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Backlund, Rich, Kamala.

March 1983/Stories include: Piper, Reed, Valiant, Roberts.

April 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Tiger Mask, Sammartino, Bundy.

May 1983/Stories include: Samoans, Von Erich, Rhodes, Orndorff.

June 1983/Stories include: Windham, Martel, Brody, Andre.

July 1983/Stories include: Flair, Adonis, Sullivan, Zbyszko.

August 1983/Stories include: Valentine, Blanchard, Windham, Street.

September 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Briscos.

October 1983/Stories include: Race, Sawyer, Briscos, Bass.

November 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Santana, Von Erichs, Kabuki.

December 1983/Stories include: Mascaras, Superstar, Von Erich, Zbyszko.

January 1984/Stories include: Valentine, Hogan, Von Erich, Road Warriors.

March 1984/Stories include: Santana, Hogan, Von Erich, Sawyers.

April 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Rhodes.

May 1984/Stories include: Windham, Brody, Road Warriors, Junkyard Dog.

June 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Billy Jack, Flair, Armstrong.

July 1984/Stories include: Rich, Billy Jack, Valiant, Von Erich.

August 1984/Stories include: Garvin, Sullivan, Freebirds, Street.

September 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Piper, Steamboat, Billy Jack.

October 1984/Stories include: Flair, Rhodes, Magnum T.A., Bundy.

November 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Von Erich, Piper, Brody.

December 1984/Stories include: Martel, Santana, Von Erich, Steamboat.

January 1985/Stories include: Von Erich, Warriors, Albano, Koloffs.

February 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Santana, Billy Jack, Nikita Koloff.

March 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Warriors, Martel, Rude.

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Von Erich-Adams, Flair, Tonga & Snuka.

May 1985/Stories include: Warriors. Backlund, Santana, Rich.

June 1985/Stories include: Rhodes, Windham, Rich, Hogan.

July 1985/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Reed, Martel, Sunshine.

August 1985/BONUS 4-PG. COLOR SECTION! Plus: Warriors, Magnum T.A., Sheik & Volkoff, McGraw.

September 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Savage, R&R Express.

October 1985/Stories include: Flair, Windham, Shultz, Martel.

November 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Zbyszko, R&R Express, Von Erichs.

December 1985/Stories include: Rude, Fantastics, Muraco, Uncle Elmer.

January 1986/Stories include: 20th Anniversary, 10 Greatest Wrestlers, Rhodes, Hogan, Sammartino

February 1986/Stories include: Hogan, Orndorff, Flair, Hansen

THE WRESTLER

☐ FEB 75	☐ DEC 78	☐ JUNE 81	☐ JUNE 83	☐ APR 85
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VOLUME VII, No. 2 February 1986

WRESTLING ENQUIRER

CHRIS ADAMS TURNS AGAIN?

RUMORS SPARK AS ADAMS AND HERNANDEZ BATTLE

By CRAIG PETERS

DALLAS—A misunderstanding between Chris Adams and Gino Hernandez during a Christmas night match has tumbled the two into a controversial dispute. The ego clash was initiated after Adams accused Hernandez of being lackadaisical in the ring after he refused to accept his tags in the match against Kerry and Kevin Von Erich Adams smacked Hernandez and went storming into the dressing room.

A week later, Hernandez told interviewer Mark Lowrance that the two had soothed their differences after, as he put it, "I knocked some sense into Chris in the locker room." Adams joined the interview and was informed of Hernandez's comment. "Oh yeah, ya lying bloke!" Adams cried out. He smacked Gino again and then charged wildly at him. Hernandez sidestepped him and battered Adams into the ringpost, opening a cut above Adams' eye. A match between the two was immediately scheduled for January 27.

CHRIS ADAMS

GINO HERNANDEZ

Speculation of whether this would turn Chris Adams back into a fan favorite lit up the state. Kevin Von Erich, who, over the course of time, went from being Adams' closest friend to his most bitter enemy, was not reserved in his opinion.

"Chris Adams will do whatever is good for Chris Adams," he said. "That's the only consistent thing you can say about him. I'm not looking for any miracles here. If Adams comes at me with his hand extended, I'll break it off for him. I don't care what either of those men do to themselves."

KING DEPOSED BY DUNDEE

By PETER KING

Bill Dundee slams Jerry Lawler's head into a steel ringpost.

MEMPHIS—Bill Dundee defeated Jerry Lawler in a loser-leave-town match, exiling the King from his Memphis home while also taking his Mid-Southern heavyweight belt.

Curiously, Lawler seemed relieved by the loss. "The last six months have been like living inside a pressure cooker," he admitted. "I've been drinking a little too much to relieve the anxiety, and it's eroded my wrestling skills and affected my home life.

"Dundee is a bum. I could beat him blindfolded, so you can imagine how much my wrestling's been affected. Leaving town will be good for me. My wife and I are going to travel a bit, maybe go out to Hawaii, even Japan.

"Of course I'll be wrestling as we go. But it'll be freelance stuff, just to stay in shape. No titles, no defenses, no headaches. Movement is the key. By losing the belt, I feel as if I dropped 100 pounds. If Dundee has the guts to wrestle me when I get back, he can meet me out of town."

BUTCH REED TAKEN FOR A DARK JOURNEY

By STU SAKS

TULSA, OK—Tensions reached their boiling point in this Southwestern town after Dick Slater utilized the treacherous services of his valet, Dark Journey, to defeat local favorite Butch Reed and swipe his North American heavyweight title.

Reed orchestrated the mat action, his superior size and strength matching up well against Slater's deceptive rule-breaking stunts. As Reed weakened the challenger with an assortment of bear-hugs and hammerlocks, Dark Journey, Slater's valet, snuck into the ring and cracked Reed over the head with a pocketbook full of lead. Slater sprawled over the injured Reed and was awarded the title.

Angry fans booed and hooted Dark Journey and Slater and they required the protection of several police officers to return safely to their dressing room. Reed left to a cheerful roar of encouragement. "I'll smash those two," he promised after a doctor's examination revealed a slight concussion. "I'll teach Slater to fight his own battles. And Dark Journey is in for a bad trip after I get through with her."

Dick Slater has Dark Journey to thank for his victory over Butch Reed.

COMRADE ORGA SEES BLUE OVER MISTY

By JIM SCHUERMANN

PORTLAND, ME—Comrade Orga, a strapping 6'1", 218-pound Russian behemoth has shaken up local officials here by demanding a shot at Misty Blue Simms' IWF belt.

Orga stormed the IWF offices one afternoon, screaming in broken English that she'd journied 5,000 miles to wrestle and defeat Misty Blue, and that she'd remain in their offices until a contract was signed.

According to one spokesman, the giant Russian then squatted down amidst the startled officials and sat, her square jaw set firmly and impassively as the meeting continued. It wasn't until the officials convinced her to check into a hotel two hours later that Orga finally left.

"I kill Blue," Orga cried at a local press conference. "I kill Blue," she repeated, putting her hand through a glass table for emphasis. "She nothing but a rich, spoiled cow. I am '*technologic-ally*' her superior. I kill her. I must destroy her."

AROUND THE GLOBE

MONTREAL, QUEBEC

WWF champion Hulk Hogan was supposed to wrestle Canadian International champion Dino Bravo, but negotiations are at a standstill at this time. Bravo's camp demands the match take place here, while Hogan's people prefer Madison Square Garden as the site. Until this can be settled, no clash between the two will take place.

DALLAS, TX

World Class officials have finally signed Sunshine to wrestle John Tatum's valet, Missy Hyatt. It's reported that Missy is training daily and talking by telephone with Precious and Baby Doll, two of Sunshine's lifelong enemies. Said Hyatt, "With Sunshine out of the way, my Johnny will destroy her boyfriend Scott Casey and then stamp out those Von Erichs for good!"

MINNEAPOLIS, MN

Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie says he is having trouble getting Nord The Barbarian booked for any top matches. "All the AWA wrestlers are afraid of him. None of them want to wrestle my man. Even Stan Hansen, the champion, has not agreed to a match with my superhuman Barbarian!"

THE LAST WORD

STAN HANSEN

" 'You'll never get anywhere Stanley . . . You're nothing but a no-brain pair of hamfists, Hansen . . . They should lock your $%&# in the can and burn the key, you stupid pigfarmer' . . . For 11 years I listened to this &*%$. The &*%$ EXPERTS running my career

with their %&*¢ opinions. Now the peasants gotta listen to the champ. Mr. Stan Hansen, Ruler of the Wrestling World. Put that in your chili and see how it tastes. I'm bad, I'm mad, I ain't no fad. My message to the world reads loud and clear: &%$¢*%$!"

KEVIN VON ERICH

"There will be no protest, I don't want any stinking protest. This time justice will be paid with Freebird flesh. I'm not looking at Michael Hayes either. He's only part of the problem. Gordy is the one who clobbered me from behind. Gordy stole our belts. For years that ugly

Gorgo's been gettin' away with murder while Hayes gets all the credit and takes all the blame. Not any more. This time I shoot to kill. I gotta smoker in the shape of my fist aimed right at Terry Gordy's head. Someone should tell him. Someone should notify his next of kin."

FABULOUS MOOLAH

"Y'all would think that in 28 years they'd invent someone who deserved to be in my ring. They've sent astronauts into space and invented Tofutti, but they couldn't fashion another woman with my talent and beauty. Here I am, this old lady just hankering to retire, but

why should I? With the crapola they pit me against, I'll wrestle till I'm 115! It pays more than Social Security and it keeps my blood young. If I had known wrestling would be this easy, I woulda been an astronaut. It's almost obscene how good I am."

BILLY JACK HAYNES

"Regrets? I have a few, but nothing that I'd lose 40 winks over. Each of us is born with a different set of responsibilities. Each of us has to go his own way. I'm always hearing about my potential. That and a bale of hay will feed my horse. Man, I got things to do. If I never win

a world title, at least I'll know I lived my life the right way. And victory becomes sweeter with each hardship we're asked to bear. So don't cry for me. I'm a happy man. I have peace of mind. Not many people in this big ol' world of ours can say the same thing."

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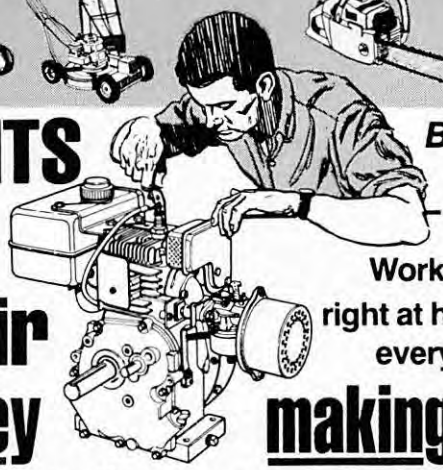

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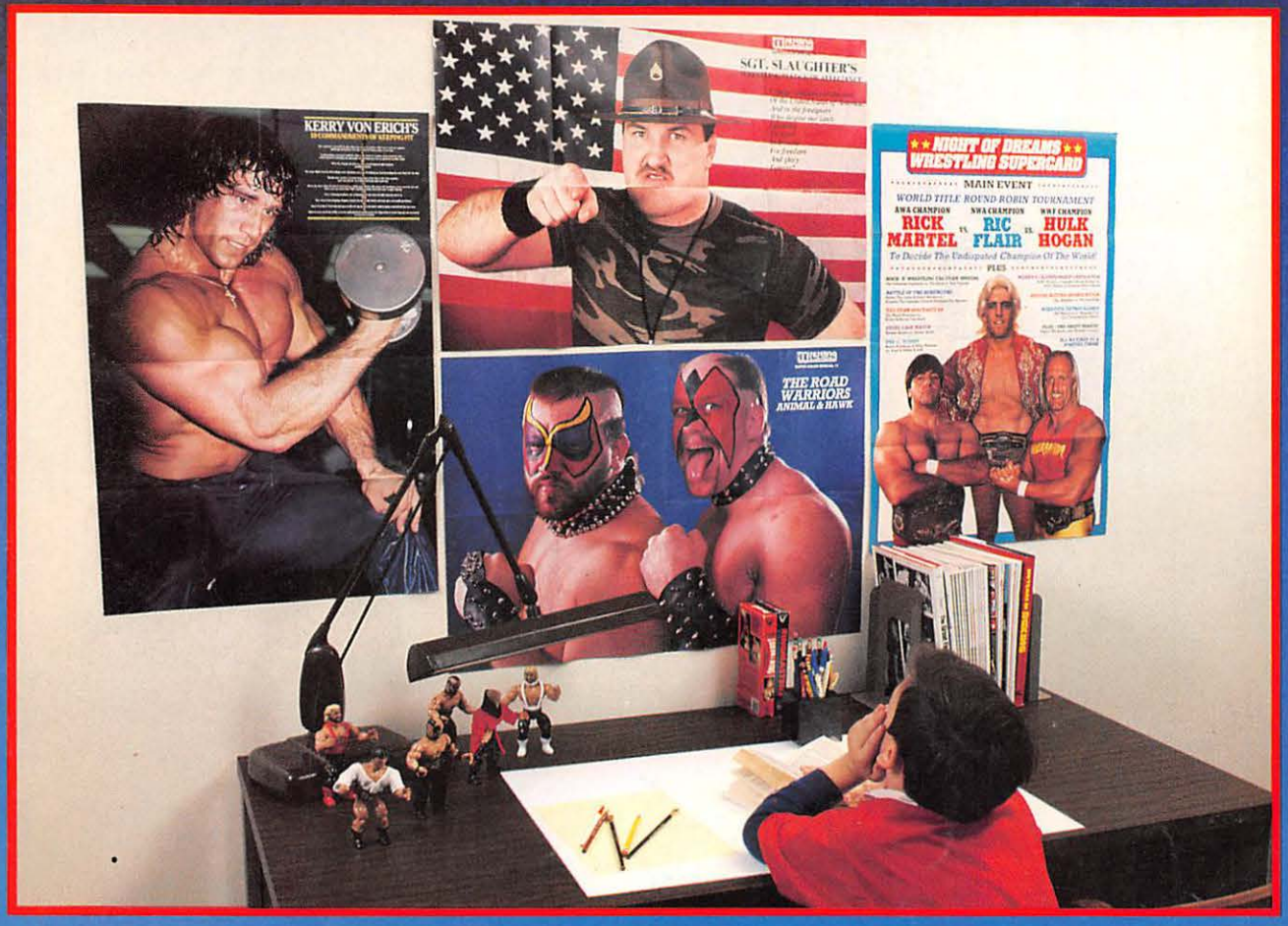
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